

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #371 - Sides A/B/C

Subject: Jack Smith

Place: Smith Home - Harney, Oregon

Date: February 2, 1995

Interviewer: Dorothea Purdy

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and today I am traveling with Helen Davis, and we are heading towards Jack and Bonnie Smith's home in Cow Creek area. Helen has been studying and doing history on the Cow Creek area for a tour for the April 1995 John Scharff Waterfowl Festival Days. We'll be talking with Jack and Bonnie about some of the history of that area. The date is February 2, 1995.

JACK SMITH: We moved here in April the 16th, 1936, to the old Jim Mahon place.

HELEN DAVIS: This is where I got to get in. Whoops.

DOROTHEA: And who is, your parents?

JACK: My folks and I, yes. And that was the first time I ever saw Cow Creek was the 16th day of April 1936. The county road at that time followed the base of these hills. It just wandered around wherever the base of the hill was, that's where the county road went. Well there was a big bridge across the creek up here, and the water was so high, that it had washed the whole bridge out. And we come from, we come here from Huntington, Oregon, is where we come from. And we got up there, we couldn't get across to get on up to the place.

So Jap Temple was living on the place that we had leased. So it was all sagebrush, there wasn't no farm ground or anything, it all went back to sagebrush. It had been farmed years and years before, but it all went back to brush. So he come down

there with a team of horses on an old iron wheeled wagon with a hayrack on it. And we had a lot of our utensils, and bedsteads, and chairs, and everything in the pickup. We loaded that onto that wagon. They started up to the house, and the team run off. And when it got all said and done, there was nothing left on that wagon, it was all scattered up through the sagebrush. It just tore things all to pot.

Well Temples was living there, and they wouldn't move out. So my folks had to go to Burns and get Sheriff Frazier, who was the county sheriff at that time, to go up there and evict them out of the house so we could move in. And that was in 1936. Well then they moved down here to the old Poujade place. And they had only been up there a little over a year on that place.

DOROTHEA: Now where is the Poujade place? That's where ---

JACK: Where the school was.

DOROTHEA: Rich, oh, where Rich lived.

JACK: Yeah, where Rich Temple lived, right. That was the old Poujade place, and that's where the school was. Well I don't know, at that time the only kids that I remember of in this area was the Temple kids. And they was going to school there at the Poujade place before we moved here. Because there was John and Ora Dee, and then they had a girl, and then Rich and Allen. Well as near as I can recall, it was John, and Ora Dee and the girl going to school down here. And they had an old buggy, and so the three kids would ride in that buggy to go to school. Well they got down there in the field, the team run off, threw the little girl off, threw her and her head went through the spokes of the wheel and it beat her to death.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yee gads.

JACK: And I can remember when we moved to the place, when they moved out, that buggy was setting out there, and nobody touched it.

HELEN: Here is your Poujade place, according to the map.

JACK: And so they just went off and left that buggy. They wouldn't even take it. Well then we moved there and I went to school down here for two years. I started in 1936 and '37. I went the school year of '36 and '37, and then '37 and then '38. Then they closed, they closed this down here. Then they went to Harney, and I went to school over there.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember who the teacher was?

JACK: Oh yes. The first two years here, my first teacher was Julia Clark. There was a little square house set right down here along the road, and she stayed in that house by herself, and then taught school. Well then the next year, I don't know where Mrs. Clark went to teach school from here. But anyway, Mrs. Annie Cote took over the teaching. Well she boarded with my folks. And her and I would walk from the home place down to the school, and then she'd teach school, and then we'd walk home. And it was two and a quarter miles each way. Well there was a neighbor, Dick Eichner, and he's got a field right across over here, it's called the Eichner field. And in the wintertime he would come down here to feed cattle. And the teacher and I we would arrange it so we would get down there, and he'd come out through the field on a set of bobs and he would pick us up and then we would ride down to school here, see, and that worked great. Well then when it was real cold and stuff, then my dad would bring me and the teacher down here, and that's how we made it.

But then they closed the school; they moved everything to Harney, because there was a family moved in up there. The upper place on Rattlesnake is the old George James place. There is one place above it. You go on over the hill and they call it the Beaver Slide, and you go off down there and there is a place, well his name is Hughes now. That was the old Frank Cantrell place. There is still two apple trees there.

DOROTHEA: Oh, uh huh.

JACK: And there is a couple, well I think there is one or two poplar trees there. That was the old Frank Cantrell place, he was an old bachelor. But the next place down was George and Belle James. Well people come in here by the name of Walker, and they bought that place from George and Belle James. They had, well there was Morris, there was Jessie, there was Ralph, there was Tom, and Ella May. Well when they moved in there then they had to activate that school over there. And that was, as far as I know that school hadn't been in operation until them folks moved in there.

Because here, when Bonnie and I was eating our lunch, we got, I got to discussing and telling Bonnie who all lived in that area, and there was no children, there was no children at all. Because there was Harry Withers Senior, there was Earl Withers, there was Huggard and Hahn, Alex Rogers, the Thompson brothers, George James, and none of them had any children. And then on the old Howser place, it was people by the name of Abraham that lived there, with no children. So then when they moved that over there, then I boarded at Harney, where that new log house is on the corner now, belongs to Cunningham now. There was an elderly couple by the name of Andy Pipes, they lived there, and I boarded with them.

Well the same Mrs. Cote was still the teacher. They moved her from here to Harney. She boarded with Harry and Olivia Withers. Well that was on east of the old Pipes place. So she walked by, and then her and I would walk to school. And we done that five days a week. And then on Friday night her son would come out and pick her up, and that was as near as I can recall, Jack Cote, that was her son. And she taught me until the eighth grade. And the eighth grade, Mrs. Clark come back and taught me my eighth grade. So she taught me my first and my eighth grade. And she taught over there, and then I graduated from --- here is my report card on my eighth grade. And you don't see many of them around. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: No.

JACK: And it was dated September the 8th, 1942, ending May the 21st, 1943, school District #2, Harney Public School. And it was signed by Julia Clark. And I don't think there is probably very many of them around, that old.

DOROTHEA: Not that we've seen anyway. That is a historic matter there.

HELEN: I guess so.

BONNIE SMITH: Well Jack; would Harry Withers and Babe Withers, would they have gone to Harney earlier, and then they closed the school?

JACK: It's a good chance that they did, yeah.

BONNIE: The school was over there ---

DOROTHEA: Now who is Babe?

BONNIE: Well, that would have been Edna and Earl Withers' daughter. She married Jack McGee.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay.

BONNIE: And then she passed away.

JACK: Well Earl McGee is her son.

BONNIE: Earl, yeah, Earl McGee is her boy, her and Jack's boy. And I'll bet they went to school there. See they were older than Jack. And then they probably, then there probably wasn't any kids, so they closed the school.

DOROTHEA: No children, so they closed it.

JACK: But I was a year behind in school, because when we moved to this country from down there, I lost a year. And so, I can't recall just what grades it was, it seemed like it was like the fourth, I was in about the fourth or the fifth grade, I took two years in one. And then they moved me up to where I was back current in things. And I ---

DOROTHEA: They could do that, because kids that did go to school, if there was more

than one or two, well they learned so much faster. Because they learned the older kids' things.

JACK: But I boarded with the Pipes, and then Garrett and Mildred Titus moved in on the old Howser place, and I boarded with them. Then in my seventh and my eighth grade of grade school I rode from the home place to school every day, fourteen miles a day. And I done that for two years.

DOROTHEA: Now where was the school?

JACK: The school, this is just the way it set, just like this. Here was --- well the old road is still here. This is the county road through here. You went in here, and its still pretty close to the same. Here was the Haines house, it went right on around, and then you went clear over here, and the schoolhouse set clear off by itself.

DOROTHEA: On the hill?

JACK: Right at the base of the hill, all by itself.

BONNIE: Over towards the cemetery, wasn't it?

JACK: No, no, it was north and east of the cemetery.

BONNIE: That set out there in that field.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to say; it has to be north of the cemetery, because the cemetery is right in here.

JACK: The cemetery, right here is the turn in the road. There is an old road goes right on out here like this. The cemetery sits in an area like this. Then here is the base of the hill, like this here, and that's where the cemetery sits. But that's where the schoolhouse set. Then back from it, going back east was the big church. And it was a big, big church, and it was all abandoned. Everything was in it, everything.

DOROTHEA: Books, Bibles, everything.

JACK: Well, no Bibles, but I mean all of the pews, and all of that was all still in the church.

And us kids, like a bunch of kids, we ransacked it and things. And it was the same way with this blacksmith shop. It was like they had just closed it up on a Saturday night. All of the forges was there, all of their tools that they used to make everything. And there was, I can remember there was at least two to three buggies setting in there, and they were just setting there.

DOROTHEA: What happened to those, just people come in and left?

JACK: People just come in and they packed it off, and all of this and that. And the general store was the same way. It was just like they had closed it for a weekend. And the shelves was all full of things, all, lots of dry good items and things. And at that time Fred Haines owned the store. And then that house that is left over there, the only original thing left in Harney, that was his home, and he lived in that. And then he owned the store.

And I can remember going by there, and he was around, fooling around there in the store, and he give me one of them, like a Hoss hat, a Stetson hat, a brand new one. He took it out of the box and he give it to me. Well it was too big for me, of course, so I rolled up paper and put in the band, and I wore that hat out. Instead of keeping it --- and then he give me a pair of slippers. And I done the same thing with that. But I look back and think ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah but, you know, you don't think about that when you're a kid. You just, you do all this stuff, and now you think

--- why didn't I keep that?

JACK: In the saloon, the bar, the barstools, everything was all there. It was ---

BONNIE: It was just like they got up, or just walked away and left everything.

JACK: It wouldn't have took no effort or money to put that saloon back in first class condition.

DOROTHEA: But nobody was there to run it. Well why ---

BONNIE: No, somebody could have made a mint of money, you know, on preserving that old town.

JACK: If somebody would have just ---

BONNIE: That paved road right up there; it would be just like Knott's Berry Farm, or any of those.

DOROTHEA: Why did they do this, do you know? I mean what was, why did they just walk away from it?

JACK: I don't know, I don't know. But it was all the same, all of the buildings, they just left. And ---

BONNIE: Was that Jack Devitt's house, is that the old house you're talking about?

JACK: Yeah, yeah. But the original town site of Harney, I have been told, was originally 55 acres, is what it consisted of. If somebody would have just went in there and acquired that town site, like say when I got out of grade school, you would have been a millionaire. Because you could have done some restoring there, you would have had a tourist attraction that wouldn't have quit, because you was only a little over two miles off of Highway 20.

DOROTHEA: Right, right.

JACK: And it is a shame. And there is lots of people still argue that the Fort was at Harney. That is not right. The Fort was probably close to two miles on up Rattlesnake. But lots of people ---

BONNIE: Was it ...

JACK: Well between the old James place and where Thompson's lived, that's where the Fort was.

BONNIE: Okay.

JACK: Because the old military road that come down through the Fort, come off of the



mountain on the east side of Rattlesnake and come right down into the Fort. And then that military road went up over the top of the mountain, and wandered around on these ridges and stuff, and then it come back in to our home place right where our house was. That's where it come back down into the valley. But it was a terrible shame that somebody, well it probably wouldn't have cost them much to have bought the town site.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACK: And that schoolhouse was probably one of the best-built schoolhouses that was in the county.

DOROTHEA: And what happened to it?

JACK: They went in there and people stole this, and they stole that, and packed it off.

DOROTHEA: There is nothing left of it?

JACK: Absolutely nothing, you can't even --- I've been over there and you can't even tell anything.

HELEN: Where the ground was even, probably.

JACK: No. It's just, well it's a crested wheat field is what it is right now. But it had a rock foundation that was at least three foot high. And it was at least twelve to fourteen inches thick, all mortared in. And the building set on top of that. And there was, it was a two-roomed schoolhouse.

DOROTHEA: Do you know who built it?

JACK: No.

DOROTHEA: Never brought up about who built it or anything?

JACK: And there was two identical rooms. They was both the same, and you went into the school from the south. And you went into a little hallway, and it wasn't very wide. You went to your left to one room, you went to the right to the other one, and then just inside the door there was the rope, and big old belfry. And there was a bell in there that was

probably two and a half foot high, that was in the belfry. And the teacher always rung that bell for us kids after recess, or noon hour, or whatever.

DOROTHEA: Well after awhile, did you go to school with the Walkers?

JACK: Uh huh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How many kids was there?

JACK: Oh there was, at one time there was, let's see, one, two, three, about four Walkers. And then there was two Glerup kids, there was two Williamson's, myself, and then at one time Bill Thompson went to school there. And then ---

DOROTHEA: Young Bill?

JACK: Uh huh. Frances Capps, there was quite a school there at one time.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's about what, twelve?

JACK: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JACK: Yeah. And right now in this area, myself, and apparently David Reed, and I don't know who else around here can say they went to the school at Harney?

BONNIE: Did the Temple kids go over there?

JACK: Seemed like they went one or two years over there. It seemed like she hauled them over there. Because then they ---

BONNIE: They moved to Crane.

JACK: Because they closed this, and then they bought a home in Crane, and then she moved to Crane and they finished their school down there at Crane. But ---

DOROTHEA: But they did attend the one, the Poujade ---

JACK: The Temple folks did.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, where that school was.

JACK: And then there was some people by the name of --- they worked for Archie

McGowan, because he owned what they call Rock Creek. He owned that place, and there was people working for him, and their names was Wilson. And I remember they went to school down here at the old Poujade place. And that's about all I know that went.

And, you know, like I say what was going on before, I don't know. I'm curious to know what the activity was on this school before that time. Because at one time the, that was a two family dwelling. There was two families lived in it, the Poujade's and the Joneses, because they was related, see.

DOROTHEA: Now the old house that the Temples used to live in, before they put the mobile home in there, was that the Poujade house?

JACK: Uh huh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: But it wasn't the school?

JACK: Yeah, we went ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, it was the school.

JACK: Yeah, when I went there they took one big room on the west side, and that's where we went to school. Then the Temples lived in the east half, and the upstairs. But the west part of it was the school.

BONNIE: See at one time two families lived in that.

JACK: It was just one big room, there wasn't no divided off or anything, it was just one big room. But that's the way it was when I went there.

HELEN: Agness Brown has a picture of the old house, and it's built, the funniest looking thing. Because there was two families of them, the Poujade's and the other was a Charlie

---

JACK: Jones.

BONNIE: Charlie Jones.

DOROTHEA: Jones.

BONNIE: Allen Jones.

HELEN: Okay, and they lived in one part, and Poujade's had the other part. Then Charlie Jones moves and that probably then is when maybe Temples got it. But at the beginning, before Charlie, or after they moved, is when they used it as a, like a come and stay all night type thing from the stage station.

JACK: At one time I was told that that was kind of a stage stop.

HELEN: Yeah.

JACK: Because they had a big old barn. It was a, oh I'd say the barn was probably in the neighborhood of a hundred foot long. And it had a, the full length of it, it had a hay mound. That was the framework, and the boards, and everything, and they had a Jackson fork tractor that run right down the top of it. And then they would fill that with hay, and then along the edges where the mangers were, they had holes probably three foot square cut, and you just took that hay over there and then poked it down through that hole, and then it fell in the manger. There was mangers on both sides of it, the full length of it. And it was about half and half as far as the structure, as far as nails being used. There was about half of it, as near as I recall, that was nailed with square nails, and the other half was wooden pegged.

Now the barn that was on the old home place, the old Mahon place, it was a hundred percent all of the framework, there wasn't a nail in it, it was all pegged. And then big strands of wire run and twisted, and that's what held the framework. There wasn't a nail in that. Now the roof and all of that ---

HELEN: Now is this Jim Mahon's house?

JACK: Ira Mahon.

HELEN: Oh, Ira.

JACK: Well, let's see.

HELEN: You said and you came, you moved ---

JACK: Jim Mahon was Ira Mahon's father, is the way it was.

DOROTHEA: Now is that M A H O N ?

JACK: And that was ---

HELEN: No ---

JACK: M A H O N. Well actually, some people call it Mahon.

HELEN: Oh, okay.

JACK: See there was Mahons down there, out from Windy Point. But they spelled their name altogether different.

BONNIE: Well what about that woman up there?

JACK: And then on Little Cow Creek, there was a Main there, but that was spelled M A I N.

DOROTHEA: Just Main.

HELEN: That's what I wrote down the first place. I should have had M A H O N, where you moved, when you first came.

JACK: Uh huh, Mahon, right, right, yeah.

HELEN: And that was a Jim?

JACK: Uh huh.

HELEN: Mahon.

JACK: That's what a lot of people ---

HELEN: Where you came and stayed when you first came.

JACK: And that place was originally a 1040 acres, the old Mahon place, was a 1040 acres. Because when we moved here C. B. McConnell, you probably heard of him, you might have knew the gentleman, he was an attorney and he was more in legal stuff. He

wasn't a trial lawyer or anything, but he was in legal stuff. He was the representative for the people that owned the place. The people that owned the place lived in Illinois, and their names was Danforths. And he was the agent for them.

Well back in the early middle '20's, my mother had been in this country, and I had a half brother. He shingled part of the house in 1928 up there. And when we moved there the shingles were still on the house. And that's how she knew about the place. And then when I was legally adopted, and when my mother married my step-dad, that's when they decided to move out of Huntington country and come up her.

HELEN: Okay, what was your half-brother's name?

JACK: John Walker. But my mother, years and years ago, she worked for, over there where, well I call it the Huggard place. That lady had a whole lot of men. She had Buck Love, she had Al Huntsman, she had Huggard, and Hahn, and I don't know how many more. But my mother come up there one time and worked for her, out of the Willamette Valley. And she run a packer, and they just took a log and put some ends on it so they could have a frame. And she rolled ground with it over there. And that was back in the middle '20's sometime.

BONNIE: She was just a girl then, wasn't she?

DOROTHEA: Who, who were your parents then?

JACK: My father's name was Gordon.

HELEN: Was what?

JACK: Gordon.

HELEN: Gordon?

JACK: Uh huh. Ruben Gordon, and I was born in Ontario, is where I was born. And then there is still one building down there, right across from the airport that belonged to my grandparents. And that's the only building left there. And then we moved to Birch Creek

from there. Oh, that was the awfulest place that any human ever lived in your life up there, at that Birch Creek. Oh! We had just one, a little old one room cabin, and it wasn't very blasted big either. And oh, it would get just so terrible hot down in that canyon, you couldn't hardly stand it. Well we had a big old Majestic wood cook stove. That's the only heat we had and stuff. I slept in a three quarter size bed right at the foot of my mother's bed. My mother wasn't married to my step-dad at that time. And she always had a rifle and a shotgun setting right at the head of her bed where she could just roll over and grab it. And I'll never forget this one morning, I started to get up, and she told me to stay in bed. And I see her rolling around there, and she had a 4-10 shotgun. And she rolled around there and got that shotgun and I thought, I wonder what's going to happen. And she just up and shot right in that little cabin. There was an old rattlesnake laid out right in front of that old cook stove. And she shot that old rattlesnake right in the cabin. Oh! That was a weird place.

HELEN: I guess.

JACK: And that's the only time, and the only place in my life I ever saw a rattlesnake den.

DOROTHEA: Dead?

JACK: Den.

DOROTHEA: Oh, den.

JACK: Uh huh. My mother and I was out, well she had me on behind her bareback, and we was fooling around up in the hills, and we could smell something, just oh, awful smell. And so my mother just kept tracing the smell, and by golly we come upon a ball of snakes that was probably two and half foot in diameter. And there was every kind of snake that was in that country, was in that ball. Because the old, some of the old timers said they will never den up in mixed breeds. Well that's not true. It's whatever snake gets in there, they all ball up together. And when you smell that smell, you never forget that

smell.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, because I've smelled snakes, and they stink.

JACK: It's horrible, horrible. And my mother and --- well it would have been her future husband's sister's husband, they would always argue. He maintained that rattlesnakes laid eggs. My mother said, "No, they don't lay eggs, they bear young."

My mother and I was walking up this old road one evening, and there was an old rattlesnake laying out in this old road. And it looked like it was pretty good sized, you know, and it wouldn't hardly move. So my mother went and she got a big old rock, and she just walked over there and threwed that rock on that old rattlesnake, and I mean we had a whole road full of snakes. There was probably six or seven little guys, maybe two or three inches long. Well it just so happened that the neighbor come along. And she said, "Now I told you they beared young." (Laughter) There was a whole pile of them.

DOROTHEA: We proved that, didn't we?

JACK: But oh that, oh that was a horrible place. One time my mother and I was out, and the creek had dried up, and we was walking up the old creek bottom. And you know how slick them rocks get in the bottom of a creek. And a rattlesnake buzzed, and my mother she couldn't see where the snake was, she told me to get out of there. And I was about, oh probably five years old. Boy I took just as hard as I could, running down this old creek bottom. I didn't get probably twenty, thirty feet, and man I hooked my toe on a rock and I crashed. And I hit my head on a big old sharp rock right above my eye, and it just split my old, laid my old head wide open. Oh blood was just a pouring off of me. My mother didn't have a car, nobody around, so --- I'll remember this till my dying day. She took me in the house, set me down in a chair, went and got the old kerosene lamp, took the globe off of it, went and got her sewing needle and her silk thread, and a pair of pliers, and she lit that lamp. She'd hold that needle in there and get her hot, and then she'd just take it, just



stitch and tie it off. Oh my, I'm telling you now, talk about hurt!

DOROTHEA: Did you scream a little?

JACK: I'll bet you could have heard me for a mile. But, some people said well how come you done that? Well that's the only choice she had. You didn't, you couldn't get to a doctor, you know. But boy, oh boy, talk about hurt now. Oh my! I don't think I want that no more.

BONNIE: When did your mother marry Frank then?

JACK: In 1936.

BONNIE: Just before you come up here.

JACK: Uh huh.

BONNIE: Oh.

DOROTHEA: That was ---

HELEN: She married who then?

JACK: Frank Smith, my ---

HELEN: Frank Smith.

JACK: He run a bootlegging outfit. (Laughter) And he had this still on Birch Creek, back in the willows and stuff. And he would make the moonshine, and I've heard --- well his brother-in-law and other people said he made the best moonshine of anybody that ever was. But anyway all of his customers was doctors and lawyers, and things out of Boise and Ontario and stuff. And he sold the, some of the moonshine in five gallon cans even. And so the old feds got after him. They went in there and they raided his still. They didn't get him, he got out over the hill. But anyway, they raided the still.

So Maw and I was down there along the creek where his still was, and he had all this sour mash in these oak barrels, you know, he'd dumped it all out. And I'll never forget that, here was crows and magpies, lots of magpies in that country, and lots of crows, and

here they took on a whole bunch of that old sour mash, and they was so drunk they couldn't get airborne. Them old crows would just sit on their old butt, you know, and flop their old wings and they couldn't never get airborne, you know. I'll never forget that, them old crows was really pickled now.

DOROTHEA: Well what was your mother's name?

JACK: Her maiden name was Meyers, Viola Meyers.

BONNIE: Viola Meyers.

HELEN: Meyers.

JACK: M E Y E R S. German.

HELEN: M ---

JACK: M E Y ---

HELEN: N E Y ---

JACK: M E Y.

DOROTHEA: No, M like mother.

HELEN: Okay. ... M E Y ---

JACK: E R S.

BONNIE: And they called her Ola, O L A, that's what everybody knew her as here.

HELEN: Knew her as what?

BONNIE: Ola.

HELEN: Ola.

BONNIE: But she spelled it O L A, Ola.

JACK: But her mother was born in no man's land, what they call no man's land. That's when you're out in the middle of the ocean, and you're outside of the territorial boundaries of a nation. And she was born on a ship out in the middle of the ocean. And they moved to, out of Portland.

Going to John Day, I'm sure both of you ladies have saw it, there is three different roads that went down Canyon Grade. The present one, and then there was one part way down, and then there was one right in the bottom. My mother told about when she was still in the Willamette Valley, that she had some friends that had a dairy, people by the name of Art and Lottie Hill. So how they got connected to selling some cows in this country, I don't know. But anyway, they sold some milk cows to somebody in Burns.

So they loaded them old cows in an old Garfield truck, an old hard rubber-tired truck. They come up the Columbia River through The Dalles and around, and they got to John Day and then started up the Canyon. Well I don't know how many cows they had, four or five in the old truck. The old truck didn't have enough power to pull the grade with the cows in there. So my mother and this other lady, they unloads the cows, and the cows was all halter broke, they led them cows to the top of Canyon Grade. And the old fellow, old Art, he could drive the old truck empty, and got up on top and they got in against the bank and loaded the old cows back in the truck and brought them to Burns. But they led them old cows up Canyon Grade. (Laughter)

HELEN: Where there is a will there is a way.

BONNIE: Jack, on this map that Helen has here, it shows Cow Creek, and it shows Fred Haines owning some land.

HELEN: He had two pieces of land up in there. Now that's 1935, you can see here where they tell, it's dated, that's when it was made. It's one of those; we got a name, Metsker. Now Agness Brown has this book with all these maps and things with these people's names. Her husband had it in his business. Now see here is Fort Harney over here, but I don't have Harney City. I have an addition, but I think it goes on the top, or else it comes out this way. I didn't get it pieced together, because she has to take it in two pieces. I thought that is something that we can look at another time.

DOROTHEA: Well here is the name Danforth on that too.

JACK: You see that was ---

DOROTHEA: And here is Abraham.

JACK: There was two 40's there; there was a 40 in Section 10, and a 40 in Section 15. You know, I don't know, because the folks bought property after we moved here. Then they started acquiring parcels of land. Well just like right here, this Ernest Smith property, which is right out here, they acquired that. And then this, well this map don't show it, but -  
--

DOROTHEA: Well this is Harry Withers, is that where Glen and Jackie and them lived?

JACK: No, no, no.

DOROTHEA: That's a different place.

JACK: This is on main Cow Creek, you see.

DOROTHEA: Oh, oh.

JACK: We're way to the east.

DOROTHEA: East of that.

JACK: Yeah, because Rattlesnake, well here is Rattlesnake here, see.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JACK: But the folks bought property from people by the name of Ralph Chambers.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: They lived over here where John Temple lives now, and they acquired property from them. But there was homestead sites all the way up that creek. Well from where the home place was, there was another place above it, and it was a real nice house, a two-story structure, and all fancy stairways and everything. And that was called the Bunyard place. And I know the folks, my step-dad's half brother come in here one winter, and he tore that house down, piece by piece, hauled it on a set of bogs down to the home place,

and put it back together and added on to the old house. And it was a real nice house.

But then they was all scattered all the way up through there. And clear up in here, probably further up than what this shows, was a homestead by the name of Tudor, Tudor Springs, and a homestead and everything. But there was several of them down through here. And I never did know who they belonged to.

BONNIE: Which Bunyard was it?

JACK: I don't know. Because there was a grave up there, because at one time ---

SIDE B

BONNIE: ... isn't it, that was a Bunyard, married to a Bunyard? Have I got that right?

DOROTHEA: Her mother?

BONNIE: Her sister, Iva Bunyard.

DOROTHEA: Because I was going to say her mother was a Poujade.

BONNIE: Okay, sister, her sister was married --- ... (Unrelated conversation.)

JACK: Well this really puzzles me, that says that's dated 1935.

HELEN: Uh huh.

JACK: Says Fred and Leona Abraham.

DOROTHEA: What does that say?

JACK: That's the old Drinkwater house.

HELEN: That's what she wrote, what's done in red ink here, she wrote the other day when I was up there.

JACK: Who did?

DOROTHEA: Agness.

HELEN: Agness.

JACK: Agness Brown?

HELEN: Uh huh, when I was at her house.

JACK: Well what's the ---

HELEN: She wrote those things in there.

JACK: What does that say, Jim what, Perry?

DOROTHEA: Pence, Perry, Pence? Jim who, Helen?

JACK: I think she's got that wrong.

HELEN: Could be.

JACK: That is --- let's see.

DOROTHEA: This says Jane Mahon here, so ---

JACK: Yeah, it should have been Jim Mahon. You see there was two Mahons, but they was spelt different, see, that Mahon and then Main. But this should be Jim M A I N, instead of --- Well now let's see. She is right, this Jane Main --- his name was Perry.

DOROTHEA: So it's Perry?

JACK: That is right, yeah.

DOROTHEA: P E R ---

JACK: R Y.

DOROTHEA: Y.

JACK: You see and then this Drinkwater place here, that is affiliated with Jack Drinkwater, see.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: The old Drinkwater house, the old original house, there is a point comes around here like this. It set right on the point of that hill. Well then they took that house and they moved it to the east and put it back up. And that was the old Drinkwater place. Well the house was on the Drinkwater place all the time, but they moved it to the east. Well where the buildings and things are now, that is where the old house was moved. And then I

can't remember how Jack is connected up, but it was some of his relations that had that Drinkwater place.

BONNIE: ... (Unrelated conversation.)

HELEN: Okay, the first name I've got for a Bunyard is Jesse. Intends going to Pine Creek this week to improve his timber culture. Why do they keep saying timber culture? I don't understand that expression either, and I've ran into it a number of times in here.

JACK: Do you suppose they meant their timber claim? You had to do improvement and things.

HELEN: Well there is one time, somebody is plowing and planting five acres of grain on his timber culture.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, I bet that's what that is. They're claiming, in other words, it's their -  
--

JACK: Because ---

HELEN: A word --- I never looked the word up to see what it means.

JACK: I bet that's what it pertains to, is filing on a timber claim, you probably had to do so much improvements. Because it's just like if you filed a claim on a homestead, you had to do so much improvement, you had so long to do it. And I ---

HELEN: In other words there was a lot of trees up in here in this, in the Cow Creek area.

JACK: Because ---

HELEN: I keep reading that, and this is all ---

JACK: --- years ago I was hunting back up here, and I found a dump rake with a wooden frame where the, all of the framework was all wood. And it was clear up on top of the mountain. And it was up there, at some time they had used it to rake hay with.

HELEN: Was there trees back in there again, or was it just bare?

JACK: Yeah, yeah, oh yeah there was trees come back.

HELEN: When you seen it, there was trees again.

JACK: And then up main Cow Creek, you went up main Cow Creek, or Cow Creek, and then there was kind of a pretty steep incline and then you got on top, and there was kind of a little old basin set in there. And I found a plow up there, and I was always going to go back and try to find it and get it out of there. That's been forty years ago, and I can't remember where it was at now. But there was stuff scattered all around.

DOROTHEA: Farming things?

JACK: Yeah, yeah, you know, years ago. And then when you'd go up the creek there, there was at least two or three places where you could see where they had stills and stuff back in the, back in the old hill and stuff.

HELEN: I wonder if Red Hannah was in on some of that?

JACK: Oh, that old Red Hannah, now you see he was Mildred Titus' brother, Red Hannah was.

HELEN: He worked there at the ranch for a while, he was our irrigator.

JACK: Oh, he was a wild one.

DOROTHEA: What was his name?

JACK: Red Hannah.

HELEN: I don't know what his first name was. We just always called him Red Hannah.

JACK: But that was Mildred's brother. Well you knew Garrett and Mildred, didn't you?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, we knew them.

HELEN: Well I've got a James, I guess J A S. is James, isn't it, abbreviation for James?

J A S. Bunyard. See we had a Jesse,

J E S S E.

DOROTHEA: Is that James or Jason?

HELEN: It's probably nearer to James, because I have so many James down different ---



or else they used Jim. This is in the 1888 Eastern something or other, paper, at Burns. I've been reading it. See and then you got a J A S. Wright.

JACK: Like when Helen was out here before, you see this Harney Valley Improvement Company, I've been a going to do some research there. I'm not sure, but I think that was the name that Bill Hanley ended up under.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

JACK: Because this abstract, you don't see many of these. I bet you haven't saw very many of them.

HELEN: That's what I want you to read off again.

DOROTHEA: I don't think I have seen any of them.

JACK: Now that is an old one. It goes clear back to 18--- this parcel of land right here ---

HELEN: Right where we're at?

JACK: Well not right where we're at, to the west, was activity on it in 1866.

HELEN: Okay, was that name Williams and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company?

JACK: I'll show you here.

HELEN: I need to write that down again, what you had there, so that --- because I can't read my notes. You start in 1866, right?

JACK: 18--- you see July the 5th, 1866, and it was Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

HELEN: Let's see, wait a minute, 1866, and that's Willamette Valley.

JACK: And what I've done, and what my problem is, I'm not smart enough to go through this stuff and read their legal stuff to be able to interpret what they're saying. But, I did find that some-where along the line they was given this property, and they was supposed to build a road from, I think it stated Albany, Oregon clear through to the Snake River.

And instead of having it more or less in a straight line or whatever, they just went around and they checker-boarded, and they picked up the best land clear through the country. And then they, the road was never built.

HELEN: I've got a land, a lot of land listed by one name, and I'm not seeing it right now.

JACK: But that is quite interesting because, you know, nowadays they don't have an abstract.

DOROTHEA: Prepared by Harney County Abstract and Title Company.

JACK: In later years it goes to that. But ---

HELEN: Okay, then after that the next thing you gave me was a Seth Bower's homesteaded.

JACK: Well it was ---

DOROTHEA: Pardon me, I don't know; he's going to have to look there.

HELEN: Okay, this land that they had was, President Grover Cleveland signed something.

DOROTHEA: That's the one for it.

JACK: You see there was two or three presidents signed a bunch of that to start with.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, McKinley and ---

JACK: There is Grover Cleveland.

DOROTHEA: --- Grover Cleveland.

JACK: He signed one July the 5th, 1866.

HELEN: Okay, would that be that first one we had?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's ---

HELEN: Because you gave me July 5th. Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company.

JACK: Mountain Wagon Road.

DOROTHEA: And that's to them.

JACK: And you see that was the northwest one-quarter.

HELEN: Okay, I got that.

JACK: Of Section 35, which would have been down here where the hay shed is at, see.

HELEN: And they don't give any Township or ---

JACK: Yeah, it is Township 22.

HELEN: Just a minute.

JACK: South Range 32 1/2.

HELEN: 32 and 1/2, okay.

JACK: Consisting of 160 acres.

HELEN: 160 acres.

JACK: Then ---

HELEN: The next time I get something it says homestead, Seth Bowers.

JACK: You see this is the same date as the previous one.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: It's ---

DOROTHEA: To the same people.

JACK: To the same Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company, the southwest one quarter, and east one half of Section 35. To the east one half, and the southwest.

HELEN: Now is my Township and my Range ---

JACK: Still the same.

DOROTHEA: Still the same.

HELEN: Still the same thing.

JACK: Then on ---

DOROTHEA: That was signed by William McKinley.

HELEN: Oh.

JACK: You see we changed presidents there, didn't we? Now that's ---

DOROTHEA: That's all the same day. Is that 66 above? Yeah. Executed by ---

JACK: They must of went by the date of instrument or something, didn't they? Because the date of instrument was February the 10th, 1894. Well that's what it was, and then the next one was August the 7th, 1898.

HELEN: Well I don't have those dates down from the other day. All right, have you come across this Seth Bowers?

JACK: Then on ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's ---

JACK: Let's see.

DOROTHEA: That was the next one.

JACK: Continuation of abstract of title to the land described in the, caption hereto, Seth Bowers and his wife Mary E. Bowers.

HELEN: Okay, and what's the date on that?

JACK: March the 13th, 1899.

HELEN: 1899, March ---

JACK: 13th.

HELEN: The 13th.

JACK: And that was the balance of this Section, which was the northeast one-quarter, which is right here.

HELEN: Northeast one fourth.

DOROTHEA: Right where you're sitting?

JACK: Uh huh.

HELEN: Okay, the next name I've got is that they sold that to a Frank S. Miller?

JACK: Yes, they sold that to a Frank S. Miller. And then I kind of get lost.

HELEN: Sold to Frank S. Miller.

JACK: Because then the next ---

HELEN: Is there any description where they might have added on something to this, or what was the date for Frank S. Miller?

JACK: No, that --- March, what was it, the 13th.

DOROTHEA: 13th, she has that.

HELEN: That's the same date?

JACK: The 13th day of March 1899, is when Bowers sold it to Miller.

HELEN: 1899. Well then Seth Bowers got this from that Willamette ---

JACK: No, no, no.

DOROTHEA: Huh uh.

JACK: It was apparently a homestead. Because you see ---

HELEN: Oh, Seth Bowers?

JACK: Yes.

HELEN: Okay.

JACK: Because the Willamette outfit had no connection with this 160.

HELEN: Oh, okay, homesteads, Seth Bowers. Sold to Frank Miller.

JACK: Then you go clear, all of this stuff here, and if a person could read this, and understand it.

DOROTHEA: And understand it.

HELEN: Okay, then we come to that ...

JACK: But I'm not smart enough to do it. Because then we get clear on back here, and it's --- a name that I can't even pronounce.

HELEN: Okay, and that was, they sold to Charlie whatever, and you know what I come up with, Burns, for that name. That's the first time it shows up.

DOROTHEA: Charles, A L T S C H U L.

HELEN: And it's in the book, and he gets this as blocks in Burns. And that date is ---

JACK: But you see this is, they had this land and they sold it to Harney Valley Improvement.

HELEN: You mean this Charles something or other?

DOROTHEA: This Charles, whatever his name is?

JACK: You see somewhere along the line they got all of it, because it says Township 22 South, Range 33 1/2, all of Section 33 and 35, which 35 is this one, see. So somewhere along the line ---

HELEN: Let's back up a minute now. They do all of this in, where am I at, okay, what I got out of the book, the deed book, is that the land that they get in the beginning is on the 10th of May 1890. And that is in Burns, in other words they lived in Burns before they came out here.

JACK: No, that's, well this ---

DOROTHEA: That's that Ar---, Charles.

HELEN: Charles, same person, same last name, and this is in Burns, property in Burns.

DOROTHEA: See you've got them here; his wife's name Camellia.

HELEN: But, what is the date on that, that they acquire this land out here? Township 22, Range 32 1/2, all of Section 35. You had that there once.

JACK: Well now that, I don't know, because ---

DOROTHEA: 1910, April 11th.

JACK: That's when this was sold, but when they acquired it, I don't know.

HELEN: Well just a minute.

JACK: You see they had to acquire that property from that Willamette place somewhere.  
And I don't know ---

HELEN: No, they sell to Willamette. Harney Valley, oh, no. Wait a minute; we've got a  
Seth Bower in there someplace.

DOROTHEA: No, he was before that.

HELEN: And what about Frank S. Miller?

DOROTHEA: They were before that.

JACK: Yeah, you see they was, Bowers sold to Miller.

HELEN: Bowers sold to Frank Miller. Then the next name that you give me is this  
Charles.

DOROTHEA: I don't know how you'd pronounce that.

HELEN: --- H U L, and Camellia. I don't think that's spelled right, but it will work for now.  
Okay, and that is ---

JACK: As near as I can decipher some of this, some of this went clear back to Paris,  
France, some of this transactions.

HELEN: That would have been in Poujade's outfit.

JACK: And I think that might have been where some of this come in. But how they  
acquired the 480 acres of this field to be able to come up with all of it, I don't know.  
Because the last that I show there it still belonged to that Willamette place. But I think  
they went bankrupt or something, because there is --- Well just like this here, when these  
people sold it to Harney Valley Improvement, they had a price tag clear back in 1910 of  
\$41,600 on it. See?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HELEN: Now something I came up with ---

JACK: Now that, you know, is unheard of.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, but the value in that time is a lot of money.

JACK: In 1910, you see, and this was all done in, a lot of the transaction was in New York State.

DOROTHEA: State, yeah, of New York.

JACK: And I've got to do some research here to find out who was connected with this Harney Valley Improvement.

DOROTHEA: I don't know either.

JACK: Because we rented this place, we leased it in, oh boy, about 1944, or 1945. They had come in here and they had hayed it, and they had all of the hay in the buck room. Well my folks didn't have enough hay, so they bought the hay in the buck load from Martha Hanley. And we come down here and we stacked the hay. Well the deal was if she ever sold the property, that my folks would have the first right of refusal. So it went on there. Well then she turned around and she didn't give my folks a chance at it, and she sold it to Bill and Ross Thompson. And I know it was Hanley, and that --- I've got to do some research because I'm sure this Harney Valley Improvement Company was Hanley. Because some of these irrigation ditches here, well there is a ditch that goes two thirds, or half way around this field right here along the county road, and that is called a Hanley ditch. And I think that these people here sold it to Hanley. Because there is Harney Valley Improvement land checker-boarded around the country. I'm sure you've saw that name lots of places.

HELEN: Yeah, I've run in to ---

JACK: And that, I'm sure, was Bill Hanley, but I don't know for sure. But then when the Thompson's bought it, then you see this abstract it ceased then, it went Land and Title. And there is no other history of it. But they was going to throw this away, and I said, "Don't throw it away, I want it." And what I'm sorry --- some of our other property, it was



homesteaded in 1910; Bonnie and I are the second owners of it. There was an abstract on it, and we don't know whatever happened to it.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I've never seen those. I don't know, there probably has been some on the Baker place, you know, because, I mean it is way back to --- But we've never seen any.

JACK: Most people they just took and threwed them away, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACK: But you know you go clear back to 1866, there wasn't much activity in this country in 1866. Because that's ---

HELEN: Yeah, because that's before the uprising ---

JACK: Oh, yeah.

HELEN: --- in 1878.

JACK: Right. So ---

HELEN: I'm going to, when I go up to the courthouse again, I'll check up all I can on 1910.

JACK: Because I am real interested in this Harney Valley Improvement Company.

HELEN: Okay, I wrote that down, and the date was 1910, so I'll have to start out with everything in 1910 through that first indirect number one book.

DOROTHEA: Now when you take your tour, what are you, where are you going?

HELEN: I'm not sure yet. Well we're going to have to wait for good weather so that we can go up here with Jack and see what we might be able to come up with to bring them in. Otherwise, we'll just have to stay out on the highway. Because we will come here last, see, but I want to tell them that the wagon train came through here 150 years ago.

DOROTHEA: Where are you going to start?

HELEN: We start out with Harney.

DOROTHEA: On Harney?

HELEN: Yeah, Harney City, and then Fort Harney, and then come on up this way and tell them, give them the history of that. We will not do some of the houses and things that we did last year. We won't take in the Stancliff house out here, we'll just come straight out to the Harney part, because I wanted to talk more on this.

DOROTHEA: Well now are you going to, is there a road that will bring you through from, to Jack's?

HELEN: You'll have to ask Jack, not me.

DOROTHEA: Well I know there used to be, but I don't know whether you can ---

JACK: Well Andy Root has got things kind of blocked off, but in good weather you can still go to Harney, and then come through and come by our other place, what is called Mortimer. And I know a little bit about that area over there, because my folks acquired the property, 80 acres here and 80 acres there, on taxes. And they paid a lot of it; they bought it for a \$1 an acre from the county. And then just kept putting it together. And it was called Mortimer, and the reason ---

DOROTHEA: Mortimer?

JACK: Uh huh. And the reason it's called Mortimer, there was an old bachelor by the name of Peter Mortimer lived in, up the canyon. And he was just an old bachelor, he didn't have no house or nothing, he just had a dugout into the side of the hill. And he built a rock fence over there, and as far as I know it's the only rock fence in this part of the county. And he must have been a mule of a man, because there is rocks in that thing that's probably two and a half foot in diameter. And this fence, it's not a long fence; it's probably maybe two, three hundred feet long. But that thing is better than two foot wide, and probably averaged three foot high.

DOROTHEA: Still there?

JACK: Oh yeah, and it's all in tact. And he built it right around the edge of the hill. Why he done it that way, I don't know. But anyway he had a bunch of cattle and stuff, and he never had a saddle horse, he never had nothing. And he had it all fenced off into little pastures.

HELEN: Jack, here is your Mortimer thing, Mortimer Canyon.

JACK: Uh huh. Well now you see all of this white land here, that is our property. This is deeded land. And then this is BLM. And all of the white is what we own now. But anyway, he never had a horse; he never had nothing to work with his cattle. And he'd just go out there and move his old cows around by foot. Well old Dick Eichner lived up there with that Mrs. Mahon, he comes down through there one day a horseback, he was out some cattle and stuff and so he come down through there. And old Peter's cows saw his horse, and they stampeded and they went clear to Lawen. (Laughter) Well old Eichner couldn't go down there and help him because them old cows was scared to death of his horse. So old Peter he walked clear to Lawen, talked to these old cows, and brings them back afoot, back up here.

And there was people lived across the highway here, Jack Withers, and old Mortimer had some grain over there. So Jack he went over there to help him, I don't know if they was binding the grain, or if they was getting ready to thresh it or what, but anyway he was over there to help him. Noon come, so old Peter said well we'll go in and have something to eat. So they went in his old dugout and he had his old bed there, and oh it was just filthy black, it was so dirty. So he cooked a pan of biscuits, and old Jack he just loved homemade biscuits. So old Peter he takes them out of the oven, he told Jack he said, well to keep them warm he just put them in the bed and throwed the covers over them.

BONNIE: Can you imagine?

JACK: Jack said, you know, I didn't eat no biscuits that day. (Laughter)

BONNIE: Can you imagine that, to keep them warm?

DOROTHEA: I imagine it would, they couldn't breathe.

JACK: But he must have been quite an old fellow.

BONNIE: But that road would come right by there. See that used to be the county, that used to be the road. But it's all been abandoned now.

HELEN: Well someplace I've got some of her, Agness drew the road up this way before Highway 20 went in. And I don't know where my piece of paper is that has that on it. It's on the back of some-thing. I've got so many maps that ---

JACK: Well I think I remember how the roads went. Because every-thing followed the base of the hill them days, the county road, the whole thing.

HELEN: Yeah.

JACK: Clear, well, clear to Prather Creek, it followed along the hill by, well in the area of where Doc Campbell's place is, and that. Now there is some places there that the road that's there now, was where the old road was. But then when you get from Harney this way, well there is only a mile, let's see, one, two, there is three miles of county road that's east of Harney, and that's all. The rest of it has all been abandoned. We got the mile off the highway, and this mile along here, and then they got another mile from, in front of the Poujade place down to the corner, and the rest of it has all been abandoned.

Because it used to come through our field. My dad, when we bought the property and stuff, the county road went right through the middle of some of it. So he didn't want the county road right in the middle of the field and stuff, so he went to the county and he got an agreement with them that we would go on the south side of our property and build a lane, and fix it up. And then we could abandon the county road in our field, and then they could come around on the outside, and that's what we done.

And then after I acquired the property, hardly anybody was using the road and stuff, so I got a petition up and I got the road completely abandoned. So it is not a county road anymore. But ---

DOROTHEA: Well with Andy living over there, you can't get through there now at all, can you?

BONNIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Can you still?

JACK: Yeah. Actually by law I don't think that he can block that road solid, because they class it as a public road. After a road has been around for so long, they put the, I guess a public road status on it, and you can't block it off. Because I done some exchange of use with the BLM, and there was an old road that goes around on our east side, and then goes out on top, and I had to sign an agreement with them that I could not block that road. And all it does is go on out on top, and then it goes clear into the national forest. But they can class it as a public road. But big Andy, he has changed everything over there. (Laughter)

And there is a lane now, there was a fence run like this here, and then our property was through here, so when my dad got the change of the county road, then we put a fence here, so many feet wide. Well this is abandoned, so it reverted back to me. Well here is big Andy's here, he is pretty cagey. I rebuilt all this fence through here, by golly they had nerve enough they come to me and they wanted to take and put a cattle guard, three cattle guards through here. And then ...

But I'm sure there was at least two Davis's homesteaded in there, and that's how Agness is, comes in there, and now the details I don't know. But that's where the Davis' was, was over there. They wasn't in here.

HELEN: She said that her dad was a Davis.

JACK: Right, yeah.

HELEN: That's how come she's a Davis. But her mother was the Poujade.

JACK: Right, right.

HELEN: Okay, did you read this thing here? That's some more. Now she had that all done when I went up there that day.

JACK: Yeah, she is right there, Jane Mahon was sister of Jim --- she's got it spelt wrong though. Jane inherited property when Jim died, which is, that's right.

HELEN: She's supposed to look up some more stuff for me.

DOROTHEA: Well then she's got Seth Bower there.

JACK: Seth Bower.

DOROTHEA: Bower.

HELEN: Okay, there was that name that we had a while ago.

JACK: Well now, let's see, this one here was Bert, wasn't it? In that abstract, wasn't that Bert?

HELEN: You gave me ---

DOROTHEA: I thought it was Seth.

BONNIE: Was Seth Bower, Bert Bower's father?

HELEN: Seth Bower is all I've got. Seth Bower and Mary.

JACK: And she's got Seth Bower.

HELEN: I need to look up ---

JACK: You know I don't want to be smart, but I think she's got the wrong name on the Bowers.

HELEN: Could be.

JACK: I am positive the place, well it just sold here, well I don't know how long ago the people has acquired the property. That old house was sitting over there, and it was all

dilapidated and stuff, but anyway the people that bought it they went in there and burnt it down here the other day.

HELEN: Uh oh.

JACK: But now when I was, when Dick Eichner was living with ---

HELEN: Now she speaks of that Eichner.

JACK: --- this Jane Mahon, he told about, and I am positive he said Bert Bowers was a big hay contractor.

BONNIE: ... Seth Bower and his wife Mary.

HELEN: I remember that name Bert Bowers, because we had Bert Bowers on the mountain.

JACK: He lived over there where Jack Withers, which she is saying is what they called the Jack Withers place, which, that is right. But I thought ---

BONNIE: Back in this abstract here it mentions Seth Bowers and his wife Mary.

HELEN: That's where I got this Seth Bowers is off of that.

JACK: I know, but they homestead this northeast corner of this place.

BONNIE: This field, oh, okay. Oh, all right, okay.

JACK: Anyway --- now what has she got their place marked?

HELEN: Seth Bowers and Mary. Now in that part, is that where that 13th, excuse me, March 1899 is?

BONNIE: Uh huh.

HELEN: Okay, I've got in here Book 9, must be the, where the abstract thing is in town.

BONNIE: Book 9 of deed, page 132, Harney County Records.

HELEN: Wait a minute, wait a minute. I've got to find this again.

BONNIE: The warranty deed, the warranty deed.

HELEN: Seth Bowers at ---

BONNIE: He sold it to Frank Miller.

JACK: ... Eliza Hamilton lived there in 1922.

DOROTHEA: She says this Seth Bowers house is now called the Jack Withers house. Well that's clear on the Harney Road, isn't it?

JACK: No, no. There was three brothers, three Withers brothers. There was Harry, Jack, and Earl. And Harry lived over there, Earl lived over there, and Jack lived here.

DOROTHEA: Oh, oh.

BONNIE: Right across the highway.

JACK: Jack Withers, until his later years, until he moved to town, he never owned one acre of land. He was just kind of a no man. And he packed a pair of wire cutters and stuff, and his cows ---

HELEN: Went where he wanted to.

JACK: Yeah. He got caught one time out here. The Indians got quite a lot of property out here in the valley, and it was all fenced and stuff. And he got caught out there rolling the wire off of the Indian land and selling the barbwire.

BONNIE: That's how they got --- they were, they almost --- Withers were well off people. Earl and Jack and --- I remember Ola asked Lillian one time, she said, "You've got all that money, you never really go anywhere do you?" And she said, "What do you get out of life?" She said, "Saving every dollar is what."

HELEN: Exciting.

JACK: But you see Withers family, Jack and Harry and Earl's dad, he homesteaded right south and east of where the old Wither's house was. He homesteaded in there.

BONNIE: That's too bad that old house burned up.

JACK: You see that was a historical ---

BONNIE: That was a historical marker over there where ---



DOROTHEA: I don't think that was an accident.

BONNIE: I don't either.

JACK: Well it was torched.

DOROTHEA: What was their dad's name?

JACK: Got me thinking now, Price Withers.

DOROTHEA: Price.

JACK: I don't think there is any remains of it out there now, because big Andy has went in there and tore everything up, but there used to be some remains of the buildings. And there was a part of one old rudder buck and stuff out there.

BONNIE: And you know that house over there where Earl Withers lived, it's where the Adams' are now. That house was moved from over here ---

JACK: Off of our place years and years ago.

BONNIE: Mortimer over there.

DOROTHEA: Oh really?

JACK: They took six head of horses and drug that house across the flat, and put it over there. The barn that's there at Donna Webb's, that big old barn that sets back there, that barn was moved from Harney City. Because I was going to school there, and Abraham's come in there, and I believe Garrett Titus, he was just a punk kid. They brought six head of horses, and they put that thing on skids, and they pulled that barn over there. And that's where that barn ended up. It was originally in Harney City, that big old barn was.

But over here at our other place, you can still see part of the, apparently the house had a kind of a basement in it, that they moved to the Withers place. Because there is still quite a depression in the ground there, and stuff where they moved that, or took it off and moved it. Well the same way with the old Drinkwater place, there is still quite a hole there. And apparently they must have had kind of basements in them or something, or

cellars or some blasted thing.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. I imagine they, that's like the old Jackson place that is down, oh whatever that lane is, where you turn to go to the airport, they dumped it all in the big old basement, and burned it up here three or four days ago. They said somebody wanted to move in there, and they couldn't turn on the electricity because the wiring was not up to code. So the people just come in and dozed it into a pile and set it on fire. But it all went into the basement, so I think a lot of the older houses used to have basements. I imagine they built those for a reason.

JACK: Either a basement or a big old earthen cellar.

DOROTHEA: Cellar.

JACK: Now at the home place we had a cellar, and it was kind of a sandstone. And it's over there at our other place, there is a little old butte comes up, and that's where they got the stone to build that rock cellar. And it, the walls in it, was probably that thick. And they was great big pieces, and it was kind of soft, and they could work with it and stuff. And apparently they hauled it from over there, up there, and built this big old cellar. Now I mean it was a big ---

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

JACK: ... parcel of land.

DOROTHEA: Dick Eichner.

JACK: Dad, Henry Eichner ---

DOROTHEA: His dad.

JACK: --- homesteaded it. And he come in here one year, and my dad and Dick went together to hay. And old Henry Eichner told --- and we had the mowing machine, and we broke it up and sold it for scrap iron. The first horse drawn mower that come in to Harney

Valley, Dick's dad put it together. And it ended up, up there at the old home place. How it ended up up there, I don't know, but that's where it ended up. And it was all cast, and at that time cast was quite valuable. So I remember the old man he took a big old maul out there and beat it up, loaded it in a truck and hauled it off.

And then there was a, it had to have been connected with Jim Mahon, there was a, five bottom mole board plow set up there out in the meadow for years and years. And all of the frame was all wood. The only metal on it was the crazy wheels, and the wheels, ends, and the beams on the plow. And the rest of it was all big old heavy wood frame. And they used that, they said, to plow sod with. It had a normal board on a ... is long, and these was little short stuff. And then at one time, and I don't know what happened to it, we had a rake that had come from Bill Hanley's that they used to rake. Instead of using a team of horses in a buck, to make buck loads, they had this great big old monstrous rake. And that's how they made the buck ... The wheels on them was probably six to seven foot high, and great big old teeth, and they was all made in the blacksmith shop, and stuff. And it was like about six teeth the width of this, and this rake was probably, oh ten, eleven foot wide. And then they pulled it with a team of horses instead of using an old buck, that's how they done it.

DOROTHEA: We did that down at the Island Ranch one year, only I used a tractor. But it was rigged up so that the tractor could pull it, and you pulled a rope and it dumped your load. But it had these big old teeth that went down like this, and you poked up all this and made buck loads out of it.

JACK: I saw Temples had one one time down here and they used it. Now have you ever saw what they call a Jay Hawker Stacker?

DOROTHEA: You'd have to describe it, because I don't know what all this stuff is.

BONNIE: You might have seen it, but you ---

JACK: You had like a buck head on the front of it, and you had a horse on one side, and a horse on the other side. And you run under your buck load of hay, and you had to have the timing just right. Because you engaged it, and it had some gears there and stuff, and when you started forward with it, it would start raising this buck head up, see. And you had to have it timed just right to be so far away from your stack, depending on the height of your stack. Because if you was six, eight feet away from the stack, and you was to the height you needed, and then when you went on, then it would be way up too high, see. And they had one of them down here to the old Poujade place. And that's the only one in my life I ever saw work, and it was called a Jay Hawk.

And then the folks had what they called an over shot stacker. And oh, that was a man-killing thing. On the stack you had this framework and everything, and then you had arms out here, and then your head was out here and you bucked the hay onto it, and then you had a team of horses with a cable. And then you drove them horses clear out there, and it went up, these arms come out and then it had what they called pitcher teeth on it, and you set them at a different pitch. And the driver of the team determined where the hay went on the stack. Well it would throw it in the middle, and then you had to pitch it out to the edge all the time. And if you throwed it too hard, it would throw it off the back end and then take the back end of your stack off, see. (Laughter)

HELEN: Precision.

JACK: Them was the good old days. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: I imagine Clinton could tell you about some of those days.

JACK: Well I bet Clinton might of been involved in an over-shot, or a Jackson. He probably was with a Jackson or a derrick.

DOROTHEA: Well they did down here, they probably did derricks.

JACK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: But up there, I don't know. And that's what we did, because we used the derrick.

JACK: To stack and feed with?

DOROTHEA: And feed, yeah.

JACK: Had the old Jackson fork, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. But I don't know what they used at the home place. I don't know if he has ever said. He said something about using horses.

JACK: Probably used the slide and the net, because you saw that.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah, we did that here.

JACK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: We did that lots of years.

BONNIE: I can remember that.

JACK: Oh man.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BONNIE: Used to like to ride in the pull-up wagon. Is that what it was called?

JACK: Jim wagon.

BONNIE: Jim wagon.

DOROTHEA: How did you ever be so lucky? All I ever got to do was set net, that boring job.

BONNIE: Oh, I didn't help.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you didn't help.

BONNIE: I rode with my uncle.

DOROTHEA: Oh you rode, okay, okay. Well we used horses, so you know that was ---

JACK: The first haying job I ever had in my life I was seven years old. And my dad and, well Dick Eichner and them, they was haying together and they had this section across

the highway, and it belonged to Fred Haines, the same fellow that owned the store and stuff in Harney. And so they was stacking with a slide and a net. And my dad he hired this old guy, they called him Primo Careno, he was about six foot seven tall, big old gangly guy, and his job was the pull-back. Well they would come up home to eat at noon, and the old man come in there at noon, and he said, "You're going in the hay field." Well he had fired this Primo.

So I wasn't big enough that I could get my dallys and hold the rope and all of that, you know. So we had this old white mare, plumb gentle, so he put a collar and a set of tugs, and a crupper and the britchen, and then he tied a single tree to the tugs. Then he tied the pullback rope solid to the single tree. Then we was using a slide, and as long as the stack wasn't too high it was all right. But the old man he was a little Scotch on the length of his pullback rope. Well after the stack got up a little ways, to make sure you had slack, you had to ride around the side of the stack so it didn't jerk all the slack out, see. Well a punk kid, you know, I forgot, and I didn't get around the side of the stack, and they pulled that load up and they was going clear to the back of the stack, and by god they jerked the slack out of that old rope and they pulled that old white mare and me about two thirds the way up the slide, and then they tripped her on me. (Laughter) Boy I tell you there was a kid and an old white mare that ended up in a big pile right at the base of the slide. And that was, well 57 years ago that happened down there.

HELEN: Oh boy.

JACK: Oh boy. They done it once on me, but they didn't get it done no more. I learned pretty quick. But by golly them was quite the days though. But I was, only saw a rudder buck used once in my life, is all I ever saw a rudder buck used. And when we was haying with old Dick over here one year, he had a big old rudder buck and four head of horses. Oh, them was man-killing pieces of equipment. Oh, terrible! You had just one wheel in

the back, and then come up and then it turn, and you straddled that rudder, and that's how you steered it. You --- and it was between your legs. Oh boy, I'm telling you, you hit a good badger hole with that old crazy wheel, and that old rudder would take off. And old Dick was a big man, but I saw him get stood right on his head out there, because it just threw him right off of that, you know. And you stood up all the time, never set down. Oh my, that was horrible.

HELEN: This is where I got that thing, 2nd of August 1960, dedicated, the museum.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

HELEN: So I got it out of the newspaper.

DOROTHEA: Well, where are we at Helen? Have you got ---

HELEN: Well let's see. Almost need to get re-grouped again to get more. Oh, now let's see, you said the school was at Poujade's place. Okay.

DOROTHEA: That's the first school.

HELEN: Yeah, the one here.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HELEN: Oh, I know, I was going to ask you. Did they have a little, like grocery store or something? Where did you get your supplies, or did you have to go to Harney for anything, flour or sugar?

JACK: Well when we moved to this country, we had to go clear to Burns.

HELEN: Oh, you went clear to Burns then, in '36?

JACK: Uh huh, oh yeah.

HELEN: Huh.

JACK: And we had a 1936 Dodge pickup, with 21-inch wheels on it. Right in there by where Wes Shepard lives ---

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah.

JACK: --- we would high center in the spring of the year, the ruts was so deep, with 21-inch wheel pickup, we would high center. And you see that was the schoolhouse them days.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, that's Poison Creek, I think.

BONNIE: That's where my mom went to school.

JACK: But oh, that was awful, awful. But it would, sometimes it would take the folks two days to get to town. Because they would drag the pickup down here to the point of the hill with a team of horses. And then it would take all day to go to Burns and back.

DOROTHEA: Fighting the mud?

JACK: The mud and the snow and stuff. I remember one time bringing the pickup out, the snow, and we had a team of horses on the front of the pickup, and the snow was so deep that it pushed the snow plumb up over the hood of that pickup, pulling with a team of horses. Man, it was belly deep now.

BONNIE: We used to get a lot of snow.

DOROTHEA: Yeah I know it, I know.

BONNIE: You know now they think you get a lot of snow, why it really isn't nothing. I remember when I used to walk to school, you know, and we lived right where we live now, and gee the city would plow the streets and it would really be high.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BONNIE: We haven't had any snows for a long time.

HELEN: Now the reason I asked this ---

DOROTHEA: We really haven't.

BONNIE: No.

DOROTHEA: That's what I tried to tell the kids too. They don't believe me.

BONNIE: They don't know what snow is.



HELEN: Was that on the 4th of April, 1888, in the Cow Creek News, is James Bright started last week for the railroad, where he intends purchasing a load of flour, bacon, lard, and so forth to sell to the citizens of Harney Valley. And this is in the Cow Creek information.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, but that's 1888.

HELEN: Yeah, but that's what I was wondering. They must have had a store here too, unless he was going to peddle it. That's why I was wondering; did they have a store here at any time?

BONNIE: Well, you know, I do remember hearing my mother tell when her father, I think they came to Harney to buy their stuff. I think that's what she said.

HELEN: In other words you ---

BONNIE: Burns wasn't there then.

DOROTHEA: Well, you know, Harney used to be a pretty good-sized place.

JACK: Uh huh.

HELEN: Yes.

BONNIE: I'm sure my mother told about how my grandfather went to Harney to buy supplies.

JACK: Oh there was a lot, you know, not a lot, but there was quite a few houses there at Harney when I went to school, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACK: There was probably, oh I don't know, in the neighborhood of fifteen or so, scattered around there. Some nice houses there.

BONNIE: When was that Helen, 1888?

JACK: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BONNIE: Well that piece in that ---

JACK: And that was, '88 they was talking about when they had the feud in Harney there on the two locations of Harney, wasn't it, '88?

HELEN: I had a deal here that tells what year. Where did that get off to? That's the school stuff. Of the amount of taxes, was much, made much more money, let's put it that way, at Harney than what Burns had.

JACK: Well you know at one time in the county, I can't remember what year it was, but they had a license, or whatever you want to call it on dogs.

DOROTHEA: On dogs?

JACK: Right. One time we was moving cattle to the Island Ranch across the valley out here. Oh, it was in the fall of the year and the wind was a blowing, and it was a cold son-of-a-gun. And we got clear out here in the valley, in the area of the old Bush place. And so we was going to eat our lunch, and there was a lot of big old high greasewood and stuff there, and kind of sand dunes and stuff. And by golly we got off our horses and got up in that brush there, and setting there and eating lunch. And I looked down there in the sand and I could see something laying there, looked like an old piece of leather and stuff. And I dug it out of there and it was a dog tag, Harney County dog tag, that was issued back in --- and I can't remember what the year was, and somebody got away with it. And that's the only one I ...

BONNIE: And that Snodgrass, Helen, had that store.

HELEN: At Harney?

BONNIE: Yeah, because J. H. Loggan was the storekeeper for W. J. Snodgrass.

HELEN: Let's see ---

BONNIE: That was in 1888, that's what it said in the newspaper.

JACK: Yeah, and this is the same, in 1888 here, see.

HELEN: Yeah, that's the newspaper I'm reading in now. Okay. Now this is something Gene Luckey, I think, had in the paper, in that Lively Little History. And it pertains to Harney City, and it says tax rolls of 1893, and the taxable property in Burns was \$64,217. Taxable property in Harney City was \$177,860. And that's after we've become a county. Does that make sense?

JACK: Because I don't know what year it was, and stuff, but you see this, right in here, a lot of this was a reservation, an Indian Reservation.

DOROTHEA: This area here in Cow Creek, or Harney?

JACK: Well the whole thing through here at one time.

DOROTHEA: Well I remember Agness Brown talking about the Indians, and a lot of the things that they did. So she must have been here in some time when there was a lot of Indians here.

JACK: Uh huh.

HELEN: Okay, I got, someplace I got the year she was born.

DOROTHEA: Agness?

HELEN: Oh, 1900, 1910, Agness was born in 1910. So she would have heard people tell these things.

BONNIE: Like my mother, my mother was born in 1908.

HELEN: Agness was born in 1910.

JACK: She is just like Bonnie and I, we have one of the oldest recorded irons in Harney County. And we have the original recording of that iron. It was recorded in Burns in 1898.

DOROTHEA: Who to?

JACK: And it has been active ---

DOROTHEA: Who was it recorded to the first time?

HELEN: 18--- what did you give the date?

JACK: '98. Jim, oh my, I can't remember that last name. But he lived over there out of Harney somewhere. But it was --- and that is the only one I have ever saw, is the one we have, for an original recording. I've saw transfers and all of that, but the original.

DOROTHEA: What is the brand called?

JACK: Anchor cross. What was sad, my folks had quite a collection of antiques and stuff. And when my mother passed away, and then everything got so bad that we had to move off the place, there was a lot of that stuff that should of never left the county. Because the history was right here in Harney County. Because my folks had a little horse-drawn grader that they used to grade the streets of Harney. And they had a blade on it, maybe four, five feet wide, horse-drawn and stuff. They bunched all that stuff up and took it to Bend, and stuff. Well it should have never got out of the county; it should have ended up there at the museum.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BONNIE: Frank should have given it to the museum.

JACK: You know, doggone.

BONNIE: There was a cannon ball. Old Bill Thompson found a cannon ball ---

JACK: Found a cannon ball.

BONNIE: --- over there farming one time, from Fort Harney.

JACK: Brought it down and give it to my mother, and stuff. Well them things shouldn't be taken out of the county. I don't care what, they should stay ---

DOROTHEA: Well I mean, you know, even if they are left with family or something, they shouldn't --- I believe that too, shouldn't leave the county.

JACK: It's just like Bonnie now, we've got things around here that, you know, we have no kids, no relatives, or nothing that we want to leave anything to. And we've talked about it several times that there is some of this stuff should end up, up there in ---

HELEN: When did your mother pass away?

JACK: 1967. But that's where ---

HELEN: ... we were here.

JACK: But that's what we should do with some ---

BONNIE: I'm surprised you never come out to see that collection. Lots of people come to see ---

HELEN: Well I wasn't into this kind of stuff in '67; I was just rattling two kids around.

BONNIE: There were a lot of people come, Frank and Ola's on weekends, you know, to see the collection.

HELEN: Didn't know, didn't know you people.

BONNIE: Upstairs, in all the rooms upstairs. And then they built another building and added to it. She collected for years.

DOROTHEA: Now was, there wasn't a house here, was there? Where was the house?

JACK: There was no house. Bonnie and I moved here in 1968, March of 1968. The only thing that was here on this place was a windmill, a well and a windmill, and a watering trough, and a little old barn out here, and some wire lots. This right here where the house is setting, was in a volunteer rye field. All of the rest of the land that you come up the road and around was all in sagebrush. There was about, oh possibly 275 acres of native meadow that was cleared, and that's all that was here, there was nothing else.

And we come in here and put a singlewide trailer right here where this one is at. And then started building this up in 1968. We beat all the brush off, and plowed it, and ---

DOROTHEA: Now is that yours with the wheel lines on it, and the funny looking thing that you lift the bales with?

JACK: Uh huh.

HELEN: Funny looking thing, huh? It worked, huh?

BONNIE: See Jack's folks lived up the canyon, where Don Toelle lives.

JACK: That was the home place, you see.

DOROTHEA: Oh, see that's what I was going to say, is that where Toelle's is?

BONNIE: That's the home place. Over there where that gate is.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BONNIE: You go right around that hill, and that's where Jack come to as a little boy, was that ranch ...

JACK: Well see I was supposedly, well I was, when I got out of high school then I went right back on the ranch and I worked, and I worked. Well then the, I become an age that the selective service and stuff, and they kept me deferred on the ranch. And at that time if you was 26 years old, or older, you was exempt from draft. I lacked one month and eight days of getting to be 26 years old, and they drafted me. Well I went into the service for two years, and then I come back to the ranch. And things didn't work too well, because they didn't have the iron thumb over me, because I'd have to stay on the ranch or I'd get drafted, you know. And so I left for a while. Well then I went back out there, and we was going to be partners. Well this place right here, and the Manning place, we bought as partners.

DOROTHEA: Your dad and you?

JACK: Uh huh. Well everything was fine as long as my mother was around. Well then when my mother passed away, we didn't have nothing in writing, it was just like us talking, you know, a verbal agreement. It got so bad that Bonnie and I left up there with the clothes on our back.

Well then we had to work around, and we took over the payments on this place here, and the Manning place. Well it was tougher than a keg of nails to scrape enough money together to make the payments that we didn't lose it. Because we didn't have

hardly any livestock and all of that. Well then we just kept working, working at it, and I did end up buying Mortimer from him. I caught him in a good mood one day, and I got his name on the dotted line before he could change his mind.

HELEN: Now what did you call this place before you got it?

JACK: It's the Thompson place, Bill and Ross Thompson. And how we acquired this place was, previously I told you about us coming in here and renting, putting up the hay on it and stuff. And then Mrs. Hanley didn't do what she said she would. Well Ross Thompson, he always felt guilty that they bought it, more or less kind of out from under us. So that then in later years, they divided their stuff. Bill kept that at Harney and stuff, and Ross ended up with this field here. So when that happened, then he come to us and offered to sell it to us. And that's how we acquired it from the Thompson's, and that was in 1957.

Well the, it was the same year the Manning's, they decided they wanted to sell that land up there, and so we bid on it. And then Grover Jameson he upped the ante on it and stuff. But anyway, we acquired that in 1957.

DOROTHEA: Now who Manning's?

JACK: There was two Irish brothers, and neither one of them was married. And they come here directly from Ireland, and homesteaded in two fields up there. And then they had, the original fence on it was built in 1910, they even had it contracted back in them days. And the one brother he homesteaded up a canyon there, and there is still part of his old log cabin up there. And then the other one he homesteaded down on the creek, and there is a little old cabin there, and stuff. But the one ---

DOROTHEA: Now is this anywhere near where Pinky used to live?

BONNIE: Up above him.

JACK: Above him.

DOROTHEA: Above him.

JACK: On above Pinky, yeah, right.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JACK: And the one brother he didn't like the sheep or anything, so he went to work in the mill. And Tommy ---

HELEN: What's the name of this mill?

JACK: Edward Hines.

DOROTHEA: Edward Hines.

HELEN: Oh, in town, okay.

JACK: And he had an old Dodge pickup, and he couldn't back up. (Laughter)

BONNIE: I never will forget him.

JACK: And you'd never catch him parked on main street, he'd always park on second street, you know. And I saw it several times, he'd have his rig parked, well then somebody would park in front of him, well he'd get in the rig and there he'd set. And he would set there until them people come and drove off, and then he'd drive off, see.

BONNIE: Never did learn how to back up. I don't know how he got a driver's license.

JACK: But anyway ---

HELEN: Well maybe it was early enough they didn't care.

JACK: --- his brother, quite a few times he'd winter up there. And oh boy, I mean he'd get tougher than a son-of-a-gun up there. Well he had a bunch of sheep, and so he run out of hay one winter, and oh man the snow was deeper than a son-of-a-gun, and so old Dick Eichner was going to haul him some hay. And he had a load of hay on a set of bobs, a hayrack and a set of bobs. Well them bobs are wicked buggers. You get on a little slope and that old floating bolster would tip over. He got about, oh maybe an eighth of a mile from old Tommy's place, and kind of going around a little old point there and he tipped



that thing, bottom side up right in the creek. Well he got it tipped back and got the hay in place.

But then he got him some cows. Oh, he had to go out there every day and check them cows. Well in that brush that was a terrible job, you know.

BONNIE: He herded those cows just like he did sheep.

DOROTHEA: Do sheep.

JACK: And there was a pine tree above the old cabin. That pine tree was that big around. And he went up there, and he didn't do it all in one time, kinda in sessions, he chopped that pine tree down with an axe.

DOROTHEA: It took him --- no he wouldn't do it all in one day.

BONNIE: No way.

JACK: But one time we was a farming over here along the road, and it was the spring of the year, and his brother couldn't get up there with his pickup. So old Tom he took a job of herding sheep somewhere. Well he had all his camp gear and stuff up there at the old cabin. And so Martin he walks up there, and he was going to help Tommy pack the stuff out. Well they had to pack it plumb to the highway, because this road through here you couldn't get on it either, you know. We was over there a farming, and by golly we looked up there and we could see two fellows coming down the road. And the lead one, you know, it looked just about like a normal person, and the back one my you couldn't tell what it was, just a great huge bunch of stuff, you know. And so come up there, and old Martin was in the lead, and he didn't have hardly anything packing. Well he talked to us, and then here come old Tommy, he let Tommy get about fifty yards from us, and then he takes off down the road. Here comes old Tommy, he had a tent, and a stove, and cooking utensils, man it looked just like a pack horse, you know. And he talked to us --- somebody, my dad or somebody mentioned something about him a packing all that stuff.

"Yeah," he said, "that worth-less brother of mine," he said, "there sure ought to be a lot of work in him, because none has ever come out." (Laughter) By golly he packed that stuff plumb to the highway, you know.

BONNIE: They were quite the Irishmen, I tell you.

DOROTHEA: And that was Tom and Martin Manning?

JACK: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I've never heard of them, I don't know why, but --- I never heard of them.

JACK: And when we bought that, we had it on an escrow, and it started out, let's see, Tommy passed away first. Then it went to Martin, he was still in the country. Well then he passed away, then it went to Ireland to a sister. She passed away, then it come back to New York to another relative, and then back to Ireland. It just, all over the country before it was, you know, the escrow was paid off. One of them, he got ---

DOROTHEA: Well then the Toelle place belonged to your mom and dad?

JACK: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: When you left, that left it to your dad?

JACK: Well I had nothing on paper.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACK: And I got, I did not get one dollar out of that place.

DOROTHEA: And then he sold it to Toelle?

BONNIE: Uh huh.

JACK: And the livestock that was on the place was branded with what they call a Cross L. Well when they went to settle things up, and he had that old crooked Leonard Waterman, was his attorney. And so to get everything squared out, they had to get my signature, and my half-brother. And my half-brother lived out of Beaverton. Well I still trusted the old man, see. So we went down to Portland, got my half-brother and he

signed off, then I signed off. And it cost my half-brother and myself, and that was in '68, it cost us \$12,000 just to sign our name once, because we had no claim on the cattle. If we'd have hung tough, we could have forced him to have bought the cattle from my half-brother, or sold them and then we'd have got the money, and he wouldn't have got a dollar. But, we, I still put faith in him and that attorney, and it just wiped us out. Well then after that happened, we didn't have no choice, we had to just move out.

HELEN: Start from scratch again.

JACK: Well yes, and when you're pretty near 40 years old, it's tough, tough. And what we have here, nobody helped us. Bonnie and I done it with our own two hands. A lot of, when we got into all the ruckus and stuff, I got letters in there that he wrote, that he bought the single wide, and he put it in here for us, and he done all this and that. And it was just a big pack of lies. It got so bad, that I had to get an attorney, here local, to protect me. Because he hired some crook over there at Bend, they moved to Bend. Oh that guy was horrible, man, he was an obnoxious dirty rascal. And he'd called me up, and he tried to get me mad. In them days I had a terrible temper. And I know they was recording everything that was said. And he was trying to get me mad to make statements. And I was smart enough, I just play her cool. And I'd get that old attorney mad sometimes, and he'd hang the phone up on me.

DOROTHEA: That makes you feel good though.

JACK: Oh. But it's made me real, real bitter. I got to the point where I don't hardly trust nobody.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JACK: And ---

HELEN: Can't blame you.

JACK: --- you know, I worked all them years up there thinking that we was a building

things up, you know, and then lose it all. It hurts!

DOROTHEA: Right. Well while she is looking these things over, why don't we ask you where, when you and Bonnie were married?

HELEN: Yeah, I was going to ask that too.

JACK: Now let's see, 16th of September 1952.

HELEN: You were married on my birthday.

BONNIE: Well that's a pretty good day then, isn't it?

HELEN: Sure is.

JACK: Yeah.

HELEN: Oh shoot, Elsbury, Jean, they were married on my birthday, her and Walt.

DOROTHEA: Oh, really?

HELEN: Yeah.

JACK: Now you see Bonnie is a native, I'm not a native, I'm an import.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, but you weren't very old when you came here.

JACK: No.

BONNIE: He's a pioneer now.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JACK: I enjoy going to that pioneer thing.

DOROTHEA: I wish I could go, but it always ends up that ---

HELEN: Yeah, I joined, we joined. I had us all join one time. And then I'm the only one that ever goes back. ...

DOROTHEA: --- when that day comes, I'm doing something else. So all I've got time for is just go in and sign up, and run out the door. But ---

BONNIE: We don't get to go every year, but Jack enjoys when we do get to go. It's kind of in a bad time of year.

JACK: Well, you know, I don't know who it was, I can't remember now, approached Bonnie's mother to be Queen Mother.

DOROTHEA: I think it is Twyla, probably.

JACK: So I, Bonnie and her mother, they was kind of hesitant and stuff, you know. And I said, "By golly, you're going to do it." Well that was well and good. But then, behind my back, they writes up all her history and stuff, and I was the one that had to present it.

DOROTHEA: You get to read it.

JACK: Oh, and I get so scared, and I can't hardly talk, you know.

BONNIE: She thought it would be nice if he read that for her. And I agreed, I thought that was just great.

JACK: They had one of them hand held mikes, and I'd never used one of them in my life. And it was a cordless one, and here I was holding that mike, and here is this paper over here, and I was a shaking so bad I couldn't hardly read what was on the paper.

BONNIE: You did a good job. He had read it over and over, so he almost knew it by heart.

JACK: Well I could, I didn't even have to look at the paper out here. But then when I got in front of them people, oh my.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I know what you're talking about. When I got up there, I'm not bashful, but when I got up there the other night, I couldn't think of a thing to say.

BONNIE: You know when Jack was Grassman of the Year, why he was the most nervous man, and of course that wasn't quite so bad. He, you know, he was kind of like you; he really didn't know what to say. But then the next year when he had to read all of that, oh he said he was nervous, you know, to have to get up there and read the whole thing, and make sure you get it all right. Jack said I think I was more nervous reading it. He had to do it for two or three years, because whoever was picked either didn't want to

do it, and they would ask him to read it.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was saying, well why did Joe Hardwick present this. Well I looked there, and the next two are dead.

BONNIE: Uh huh. That's, Jack was ---

JACK: Yeah, that's right. Pengelly and ---

DOROTHEA: Pengelly, and who else was it?

BONNIE: I can't remember now who the other one was.

DOROTHEA: But anyway, they're both gone.

BONNIE: They're both gone, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BONNIE: It was nice, I thought.

DOROTHEA: Boy, it was a houseful.

BONNIE: Yeah, and it was decorated so pretty.

DOROTHEA: It was. Ruthie said the decorations made it hard to take pictures.

BONNIE: I'll bet.

DOROTHEA: And if you see the paper, you'll understand.

HELEN: ... flash or something with that curly stuff ...

BONNIE: I bet it was, sometimes reflection is bad.

DOROTHEA: And the lights ---

HELEN: Well she was afraid it would jerk it down, or something.

DOROTHEA: --- as they were standing in front of the mike, the lights were reflecting in their glasses, and making big points on their head. And mine didn't turn out with Pauline, so mine is terrible. But, it looks like I got a big head of hair. That's okay, I guess. But it's awful.

HELEN: Well I expect we'd better quit for the day, because it's quarter after four.

DOROTHEA: Four.

HELEN: By the time I get home and get something to eat, and turn around and go to the Waterfowl ---

BONNIE: Oh, is it Waterfowl.

HELEN: --- meeting tonight.

BONNIE: See there is a transportation meeting.

HELEN: Yeah, there is two things. But ours is getting ready for the big show.

BONNIE: Let's see, when is the Waterfowl?

HELEN: 7th, 8th, and 9th.

DOROTHEA: Of April.

HELEN: April. It's a full weekend. I guess we're going to start going that way. Friday has to be in the weekend. We're going to have some more stuff going on Friday this year. They never have done anything, only just that little deal in the evening. But we're going to have some tours that, you know, the people come in early and set up. And if they want to do something, well we'll take them out and spin them around the --- that type of thing.

DOROTHEA: Are they still going to have some of the tours that they usually have, like early Saturday mornings?

HELEN: Uh huh. They'll have the long tour; they'll also have the sage grouse. And then in the afternoon, why that's when we do our thing. But you'll still have bird tours in the afternoon too. And they're going to have some more things now, this year, for kids too.

DOROTHEA: Which is a good idea.

HELEN: I think it is.

DOROTHEA: Well okay, our light is blinking anyway, so that's this side of this tape.

HELEN: Well then we ended up pretty good, huh? I'll go home and see if I can read what I wrote this time.

BONNIE: Well if you need anything more, don't ---

(END OF TAPE)

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