

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #377 - Sides A/B

Subject: Vera Addington Wagner

Place: Rogue River, Oregon

Date: July 10, 1991

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: This is Edward Gray, with Vera Addington Wagner, in Rogue River, Oregon. What date is this, Vera, 10th?

VERA ADDINGTON WAGNER: 10th.

EDWARD: July 10th, 1991. We're going to talk about Wagontire a little bit. We got all the facts; I mean we got this stuff. This is all Hutton stuff. I have a few questions. I'd like to start, Vera, when the Addington's came to Wagontire.

VERA: 1912.

EDWARD: And the reason?

VERA: The reason, my dad had flower asthma, and the doctors told him in Minneapolis he had to get out of it, there. And so he went back to Iowa, and there was a lot of homestead --- people going in the homestead, and he heard about that so he came out and packed everything they had, he and the three kids, and they came to Burns, or Bend, by train.

EDWARD: Oh yes.

VERA: And then they got an apartment there, and Papa got a horse, bought a horse. And he and Carson Walters, they met there, and they went out looking for homesteads. Well Carson Walter's mother-in-law, Mrs. Walters, we called her Grandma Walters, she was already homesteaded out there, and one of her sons, Leonard Walters, and so they

went there and stayed with them and looked for places. Well there was no place available in the country anymore that had springs on it. They had all been taken up. So Papa and Carson got adjoining homesteads and they went back, and when the kids got out of school in the spring of 1913 ---

EDWARD: In Bend?

VERA: --- they went to ... The kids went to school, my sister Lena, and Melvin, and Lola was 5. Lena and Melvin went to school in Bend the year of '12 and '13.

EDWARD: Did they go to that schoolhouse in Wagontire that is now across the road?

VERA: That was the only school we ever had out there.

EDWARD: Yeah, okay. Did your ---

VERA: My dad and I roofed that, the last time it was roofed before we left there.

EDWARD: Okay, so you --- the whole family. Now what was your mom's name?

VERA: Loretta May.

EDWARD: Loretta May Addington. I have a picture of that schoolhouse.

VERA: I've got a thousand pictures of it.

EDWARD: Yeah. What it looks like now.

VERA: I've never been able to find the ... schoolhouse. They told us at Wagontire where it was at, and we went over there and it wasn't our schoolhouse at all.

EDWARD: Oh.

VERA: But I don't know. Turn that off ...

EDWARD: Yeah.

... (Pause in tape)

VERA: I've got the Bardwell's and --- Grandma Bardwell, I lived with them when I went to school in Burns.

EDWARD: Now the Addington's were settled down in 1913. But let's move, let's move ---

VERA: They came in 19--- they moved out there.

EDWARD: You were born in; let me figure it out, 1918?

VERA: I was born the 7th of July 1918, and Leona Hutton delivered me.

EDWARD: At where, your parent's house?

VERA: At our house.

EDWARD: Cabin. Leona Hutton, now we're getting down to business, Miss Wagner.

Where --- Leona Hutton was a maiden name, who, Bunyard?

VERA: Leona Hutton was Frank --- Link Hutton's second wife.

EDWARD: Right. And when did Leona Bunyard Hutton get married to Link, do you know?

VERA: I have no idea when they got married.

EDWARD: Oh you don't?

VERA: No. That was ---

EDWARD: It was before 1917.

VERA: It was before I --- we knew the whole family real well. But I was very, very young - -- I was a baby, I was just born.

EDWARD: Yeah, I know. But you said, was that Leona Hutton when she delivered you at your parent's home?

VERA: She was Leona Hutton.

EDWARD: Then?

VERA: Yeah.

EDWARD: So she was born, I mean she was married before 1917 to Link.

VERA: Well I imagine, because I know they were married, and they were living on her old home.

EDWARD: Now we're going to get down ---

VERA: In searching through this, whatever happened to Leona's husband ...

EDWARD: Okay, just a second.

VERA: ... Here is your Bill Brown.

EDWARD: Oh, got that.

VERA: And you got all of this?

EDWARD: Yeah. Now, we got to go through this really slow, Vera. Let's say that Link Hutton married Leona Bunyard before 1917, and between 1910 and 1917. I think it was 1914, okay? But anyway, they weren't married in Burns; I think they were married in Lakeview in 1914. Were the Bunyans there, Bunyard's, B U N Y A R D S?

VERA: I can never remember the folks talking about Bunyard's. They are on that class.

EDWARD: Right.

VERA: But when he died, I don't know.

EDWARD: Okay. Okay, well let's get ---

VERA: But when Link and Leona married, why they moved into her big home.

EDWARD: When Link and Leona married they moved into who ---

VERA: Link moved into Leona Bunyard's home.

EDWARD: And where ---

VERA: That was the one you was just saying you took a picture of.

EDWARD: Okay, you think that that Link Hutton home was the Bunyard's home?

VERA: Link Hutton's home was the Bunyard's home. Whether he paid her for it, or got it when --- well we always understood that he got it when he got married. And after Leona left the country why he stayed on and then Leona left the country because of that murder.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: But he stayed there, and everybody considered it Link's house, so he may have

bought it from her, I don't know.

EDWARD: I think he homesteaded that though. But that's something I'll have to prove, and it's hard to --- no it's not hard to prove, I've got it all anyway through the records.

VERA: Well the springs up there above Links' house was called Bunyard's springs.

EDWARD: Right, right. And it is still called that.

VERA: Yes, that's on the map.

EDWARD: Yeah. Okay, so Leona came down and delivered you from your mother Loretta, right? And so she was there then. Now as we get a little older, as you get a little older, let's talk about Leona and Link about 1925. Now Harold Bradley, you know who that was?

VERA: Harold Bradley was a very, very close friend of ours.

EDWARD: Right.

VERA: He and my brother, oldest brother were the same age, and herded sheep together for Bill Brown.

EDWARD: And Harold was a pretty nice guy?

VERA: Harold was a very nice guy, very nice young man.

EDWARD: Never drank?

VERA: He never drank until he started drinking Woodard's rock gut whiskey, and that's what drove him crazy.

EDWARD: Okay now --- Vera is that Harold or Ira?

VERA: No, no, no, Harold.

EDWARD: Harold.

VERA: Harold was our mail carrier.

EDWARD: Right. He carried the mail from Stauffer to ---

VERA: No, he carried the mail from Riley --- Suntex ---

EDWARD: To?

VERA: To Wagontire.

EDWARD: To Wagontire.

VERA: For years.

EDWARD: Okay. Now he was killed, shot, murdered.

VERA: He was not murdered.

EDWARD: Okay. That's what you're here for. He was shot by Link Hutton.

VERA: I know all about it.

EDWARD: Okay.

VERA: My dad was with him when he died.

EDWARD: Okay, what happened at the Hutton ranch house on December 28th, 1925?

What is your version, Vera?

VERA: Well it is pretty hard for me to even talk about.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: Harold Bradley was a very, very nice young man. And he worked for Link and Leona. Sometimes he worked for a lot of people. But then he got the mail route. But that was only one day a week, and that's not going to keep a person alive. And Hutton's had a man by the name of Woodard they hired to work for them.

EDWARD: Link, Link, Woodard.

VERA: I don't know what his first name was.

EDWARD: His first name was Clarence.

VERA: Anyway, Woodard came out there and he was working for the Hutton's. Well that year Link was president of the Cattleman's Association and he had to travel around a lot. And not knowing to Link, why Woodard and Leona Hutton decided that they were in love, and that they were going to take the Hutton property away from Link. Link's ... So they

decided to use Harold for the goat. And Woodard was a moonshiner.

EDWARD: Where was his stills at, just up in the hills?

VERA: Right up there by Bunyard Springs.

EDWARD: Okay. This all makes ---

VERA: He was a moonshiner, and they got Harold started in drinking that rotgut stuff, and he got hooked on it. Well unbeknownst to Link, this was all planned out. Link had been over here to Grants Pass to a Cattleman's Association meeting, and he came home and --- he always carried a rifle in his car, Link always carried a rifle.

EDWARD: Yeah. A lot of them do, still do.

VERA: Anyway he had been over here, and he came back and got there, it was cold, there was snow on the ground.

EDWARD: Yeah, I've been to ---

VERA: And he drove his car into the garage and he went out --- he had a flat tire, and he went out the next morning to fix the flat tire. Well to back up a little bit, it was the day after the mail. Harold came into our place late, and he was drunk. And Papa says, "Harold, I'm not going to let you take the mail." He says, "You're not, it is too late." He says, "You stay all night here and leave in the morning."

EDWARD: He was going to take the mail back to Suntex?

VERA: Suntex, that was his route. And Harold says, "I'll promise you Luther," he says, "I promise you Luther that I will take it on to Suntex tonight." Well he didn't. He got back as far as Hutton's.

EDWARD: Which is about a mile and a half.

VERA: It is three miles.

EDWARD: Three miles, oh.

VERA: Three miles from our place to Hutton's. And he got back there and stayed all

night. And the next morning when Link went out to change his tire, Leona told Harold to go out and get rid of him. And the car was parked in close because there was snow, and it was the back tire he was changing. And just a little court like this. Harold went out and he was --- they start him out after being drunk the night before, Papa said he was awfully drunk. And he promised Papa he'd go on to Suintex, but he didn't. But anyway, they told him to get rid of him. And so Harold came out there, and there was a bench there. He picked up a sledgehammer, and he said, "Link," he says, "I've got orders to make you leave." He says, "You're supposed to leave." Link says, "What the hell you talking about, this is my place, why should I leave?" And he came at Link with a sledgehammer. And Link just reached in the car and got the rifle and he shot. Not even --- he never even had it, he just got it up like this, according to what Link said, and he shot him through the side. Well it just turned Harold into a wild animal. He come at him, and Link raised the gun and shot again, shot him right through the mouth.

EDWARD: Right.

VERA: And then he drug Harold out, and when he was dragging Harold out, and he took his coat off and laid over it, laid his head on a rock --- I never could look at that rock after that. Laid his head on the rock, and he got in his car and he came down to our place.

Us kids was just getting ready to go to school. And my sister Lola, she is ten years old than I am, she says, "My god, there is something wrong." She says, "Link is driving his car with a flat tire on it." It was snowing. And he came in, and us kids turned around and went back in the house to see what was going on. He came into our old home, got the ... there, he was froze. And he just took the lid off, I'll always remember that, he took the lid off our stove and put his hands right down in the flame, working it.

Papa says, "My god Link, what's the matter?" Link said, "I just killed Harold." Papa said, he said, "If he is still alive," he said, "he can't live." And so he says, "Luther,

can I use your car?" And Papa says, "I'll go with you." So they just got up and left. And Papa ... then on.

But they got up there, and Harold was still alive. But as Harold went, as Link went out, he heard the, Leona and Woodard leave. But he was too upset to worry about it. When he got back there was not a sign of Leona or Woodard. They carried Harold into the front room and laid him on the daveno, and Link says, "You stay with him Luther, I'm going to Burns to get the authorities." So he used our car and left, and Papa stayed with Harold. And Harold couldn't talk because his mouth was shot off.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: And he looked up at Papa and recognized him. And he reached down and patted Papa on the boot, looked at him just like I'm sorry Luther, and died.

EDWARD: Died in the Hutton house?

VERA: And when Link came back with the authorities, why he was dead. And Link went back in and turned himself in. They had the trial and everything, and he was just --- They never did lock him up. He sat out on the steps of the courthouse, visited with all his old friends.

EDWARD: Link, on December 30th, got \$10,000 bail, and never spent a day in jail.

VERA: No, he never spent a day in jail. And they had the trial and he came out that he was self-defense.

EDWARD: Self-defense, right. This just ---

VERA: Anyway, there is another chapter I'm writing on this.

EDWARD: On the Wagontire ---

VERA: Post office.

EDWARD: On the post office.

VERA: Here is what I've got written so far. In regards to registered letters delivered to the

people in the Wagontire area, it was much different than it is in the modern days. A registered letter, to send a registered letter, you must pay a special fee at the post office from where it is sent. This guarantees that by the law that this letter must be delivered to the address as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the postmaster of the post office where it is sent to deliver this letter. I am sure the postal department paid so much a mile for the postal, for the delivery of the registered letter, but I do not remember how much. I can remember my folks, Luther and Loretta Addington, had to deliver a registered letter. One was addressed to Leona Hutton. She had left her home, and no one knew where she was at. My folks had a hunch, but I can't put this name in. My folks had a hunch she may be with a lady friend who was an old friend of hers. Well it was Mrs. Donovan.

EDWARD: Okay.

VERA: So they took us kids and set off for the old, well Donovan place.

EDWARD: Donovan place. Which was ---

VERA: In a 1921 Model-T Ford. The home of a lady, Mrs. Donovan, was about 13 miles from our post office. When we arrived, my mother took the letter and asked Mrs. Donovan, who came to the door, if Leona Hutton was there. I can remember there was quite a few words exchanged, but my mother said that she would not let Mrs. Donovan have the letter, that it had to be signed by the addressee. Finally she came to the door and signed the letter.

EDWARD: Leona did.

VERA: Leona. Then my folks had to make a very bad decision. As the lady, or Mrs. Donovan, was wanted or --- or no, as the lady, Mrs. Leona Hutton, was wanted by the Burns Sheriff.

EDWARD: That's right.

VERA: The folks drove on into Burns and told the sheriff of a letter, and gave a address from which it was sent, to the sheriff. My mother was very upset, as she was, had to be put in a position, that no matter how she decided, it was against a close friend. However we never did find out the end of the story.

EDWARD: Big question. Went to Mexico.

VERA: I never did know where --- I know the letter was from Woodard, but he never had his name on it, he just had a return address, and that's the address mother gave to the sheriff in Burns. And we never did know what happened when she left.

EDWARD: Do you know that Everett Emery and Clarence Link Woodard were together on buying land there at Wagontire in 1925?

VERA: Never.

EDWARD: Everett Emery.

VERA: I never heard the name of Emery.

EDWARD: Emery married, in 1917, married Austa's sister, Esther Graves. Everett Emery married Esther Graves.

VERA: Well I knew all the Carlon's, and I thought I knew all of the Graves. Emery, what happened to him?

EDWARD: They got divorced. So did Link ---

VERA: I've never heard Austa mention it.

EDWARD: Link Woodard got busted and was sent to the penitentiary in 1913 for stealing some of Bill Brown's horses.

VERA: I know one man should have went to the pen.

EDWARD: Charlie Couch?

VERA: No, Rube Long.

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

VERA: Rube Long stole horses out there until you couldn't believe.

EDWARD: Well that's what I mean, that's what I'm saying about ... and these guys, they never tell that kind of stuff. That Bill Hanley was a rip off too. So was Peter French, they should have shot ---

VERA: Bill Hanley?

EDWARD: Oh yeah, he stole ---

VERA: Oh no.

EDWARD: He stole land.

VERA: No, no, it's not exactly stealing. If he stole land why ---

EDWARD: Well --- Kind of misrepresented ---

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Who was Ole Sodenberg?

VERA: Ole Sodenberg.

EDWARD: Sodenberg, yeah. Who was that guy?

VERA: He was a very, very, very close friend of ours. He homesteaded down at Dry Valley.

EDWARD: He was down in Dry Valley with old Sammy Boyce and ---

VERA: No, no, no, no.

EDWARD: No.

VERA: No, Sodenberg died of spotted fever when I was about 11 years old.

EDWARD: Oh, I've got that too. Who was Amy Thompson, I can't read that, Amy Thompson?

VERA: Let me see.

EDWARD: Oh, that don't make any sense.

VERA: What is that?

EDWARD: This is the coroner's report on Harold Bradley.

VERA: That's my dad's writing.

EDWARD: Yeah, right. Now, I have Leona Hutton's statement to the ---

VERA: Where do you see that, I can't even see ---

EDWARD: It's right down; right there, the bottom one, Thompson. Amy or Annie, I can't read it. It looks like A N Y.

VERA: I don't think it was a woman.

EDWARD: I don't think so either. Women didn't, you know, have much in those days.

VERA: Women wrote better than that.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: I didn't know Ole Sodenberg was ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: Let's see, witness is ...

EDWARD: That's the coroner's verdict. Now I'm going to read you something, just for fun.

VERA: R. B. Jackson?

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: Oh lord.

EDWARD: He was there then in 1925.

VERA: Oh, I know R. B. Jackson, I know him real well.

EDWARD: Well we'll get into R. B. Jackson here very shortly.

VERA: I know how he got killed too.

EDWARD: Oh, we're going to get there, hang in there.

VERA: That's why I went and got this book.

... (Pause in tape)

VERA: ... to fix his tire before he went.

EDWARD: Well Hutton just got back from Grants Pass and was going to go deer hunting. Jackson says, "South next morning, will probably go to Peru." Now I wonder if I can't read that right. Wonder if that meant something else? Okay, let me finish this, Vera. Mrs. Hutton took the two agreements. Link said he did not want them, and would leave --- this is R. B. Jackson's statement, to leave settlement and sales of property all with Mrs. Hutton. She has to have changes in agreement to effect; she should have full control and custody of property. Signed, R. B. Jackson. Now ---

VERA: I know R. B. Jackson was a stinker, but I never knew he would make up stories.

EDWARD: Just sit down right and lie, huh?

VERA: It could have been maybe Link went up there first, because he's the closest.

EDWARD: Right.

VERA: I can't imagine, because Link would have --- I felt like, and I know he came down, but I figured he was the one that came to Papa first.

EDWARD: Now you met Link before many times, right?

VERA: My gosh he was related, shirttail related to us. Link's third wife was my nephew's grandmother.

EDWARD: Oh my god. Hattie May.

VERA: No, yeah.

EDWARD: Hattie May Tyler.

VERA: Hattie May, Grandma May, Grandma May Hutton.

EDWARD: Hattie May Parker Tyler. (Laughter)

VERA: She was Hattie May Parker, one of the first people that ever, her folks was among the first residents of Burns. And she married Stan Tyler.

EDWARD: Now ---

VERA: And then the second, he died, and she married Link Hutton.

EDWARD: What, I'm going to find --- I'll find when she married Link. I think it was 1928, I'm not sure. But Lyle Tyler has all that.

VERA: Well it was just before my sister was married to Lester Tyler. My sister-in-law married Lester Tyler.

EDWARD: Oh, I get ---

VERA: Why?

EDWARD: Oh, everybody marries everybody. I get, it gets kind of confusing after awhile. But anyway, what kind of a guy was old Link Hutton?

VERA: Well that depends on you --- my nephew Lyle Tyler would say he was a son-of-a-bitch.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: If you don't mind my saying that.

EDWARD: No, you guys are good at that.

VERA: No, I'm not.

EDWARD: You should hear Austa.

VERA: I've never heard Austa swear in my life.

EDWARD: Oh, fiddle.

VERA: I've known Austa all my life, and I've never heard her swear.

EDWARD: Vera, you should have ---

VERA: The only thing --- well I've never even --- Betty said something to me that surprised me when I was over there last September, was the fact that she said, "Do you know my dad always did say that Mickie Sutherland hired Bert to kill Dobkins." I said "My god Betty, where in the heck did you ever get such a silly idea as that?" Mickie hiring --- Jim Burk was the one that bought our place.

EDWARD: Right, he leased it to ...

VERA: Anyway my sister was married to Lester Tyler January the 1st, 1929.

EDWARD: Do you mind if I laugh, Vera?

VERA: No.

EDWARD: This is funny.

VERA: Lola was married to Lester Tyler in 1929, January the 1st, 1929.

EDWARD: When did Hattie May marry Link?

VERA: I have no idea.

EDWARD: Okay.

VERA: But they --- it was through that marriage then, and May moved out to Link's place, that Lester, her son Lester, met my sister. And that was the day I wished never happened.

EDWARD: (Laughter) Don't start this --- you should have seen Mary Foster Hoffelner and me, and Bill Foster, and Austa. We got to laughing, and all this stuff was kind of funny. It's not funny, but it is, you know.

VERA: Austa and I don't get on the subject too much. We talk about our kids and everything.

EDWARD: Yeah, I know.

VERA: But I never go to Burns without I see Austa. Austa has been a very special person ...

EDWARD: She is neat. Okay, let's get to ---

VERA: We knew all the Carlon's and everything.

EDWARD: What kind of guy was Link Hutton to you?

VERA: He was just a tall skinny cowpuncher.

EDWARD: Darn good with a rope.

VERA: He never did drink.

EDWARD: No, I agree.

VERA: And he never smoked.

EDWARD: I agree.

VERA: I don't know about whether he chased women or not. (Laughter)

EDWARD: He did a pretty good job of it.

VERA: I don't think I've got that on tape.

EDWARD: Oh, what difference does it make? All these guys are dead anyway.

VERA: Their grandkids aren't dead.

EDWARD: Well yeah, but --- And I heard someone ---

VERA: He had a terrible temper.

EDWARD: Yeah, short fuse. Get madder than whatever.

VERA: And that's why he killed the first man he ever killed over here in Jacksonville. He was 18 years old ... temper.

EDWARD: Okay, how many guys did Link Hutton end up killing before he had a heart attack?

VERA: Who?

EDWARD: Link Hutton.

VERA: Link Hutton killed?

EDWARD: Yeah, how many guys did he shoot?

VERA: He had, he shot a man, I don't know anything about it, you'd have to go over to Jacksonville and dig up ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: But it was said that Link shot a man in self-defense in Jacksonville when he was 18. And that, I've heard this, now this is gossip. I've heard that that is when the Hutton's

picked up and moved to Wagontire.

EDWARD: Came to Wagontire, 1884, they came to Wagontire.

VERA: Yeah, I've got all that in those records, those clippings there.

EDWARD: Yeah. I also heard that. But all these funny, all these gossip and rumors are coming true.

VERA: But he never shot anybody else after ---

EDWARD: After Harold.

VERA: And believe you me Harold, and Link, just like everybody else in that country thought the world and all of Harold. And it was that Woodard ---

EDWARD: Damn Woodard.

VERA: That Woodard --- Leona Hutton fell head over heels in love with Woodard. Now I had a letter that I sent after my brother was killed, he had a letter about nine pages that Ira Bradley wrote to my mother. And I sent it to Austa and told her would she please try to get it to either Lena or Irene. And she wrote back and said that she wanted to keep it until Hollie had a, Hollie Schroder had a chance to read it. And I asked her when I was over there in September whatever happened. She said she had sent it to Neva Bradley. And she said what she is going to do with it, I don't know, after Hollie read it. But now Mrs. Bradley had it in her mind that Harold had a crush on Leona, which nobody --- I don't think ---

EDWARD: I have all the Bradley stuff. I have interviewed Grace Bradley.

VERA: Yeah, is she --- Grace and I are the same age.

EDWARD: Yeah. And I have all their things.

VERA: How many of them still are alive?

EDWARD: Three.

VERA: Lena?

EDWARD: Lena, Iris and Grace.

VERA: Iris. Iris is the same age. Golly, they're getting old. Lena, is getting ... Lena would have to be ---

EDWARD: She is 81, I think.

VERA: Yeah. That's just about it, because she was the same age as, Lena was the same --- we all grew up together.

EDWARD: This is the folder on the Bradley, Harold Bradley. This is Grace's interview.

VERA: Do you have Hosmer Bradley that married Neva Gray?

EDWARD: Yeah, this is all Grace's and Lena's stuff.

VERA: See that's the darndest mixed up mess out there you ever heard.

EDWARD: I know.

VERA: Austa's family, her oldest brother Fred married Ruth Bradley.

EDWARD: I know.

VERA: Her sister Neva married Hosmer Bradley. They spent their honeymoon at our place. Then Roy Carlon --- Austa married Homer Carlon, and Roy Carlon married Laura Bradley.

EDWARD: Bradley.

VERA: Laura Bradley.

EDWARD: I know, that's why I don't even want to get into that. I get so messy you can't -
--

VERA: No, I think it is interesting.

EDWARD: Oh man, it would drive a reader nuts trying to figure that out.

VERA: No, it wouldn't.

EDWARD: Oh it would too, Vera. They're not interested in all of that. That would drive you crazy trying to figure that stuff out. I've got it pretty well figured out though. Okay, let's

get with this show here. About 1930 --- who was Bigfoot Thompson? Well first of all, back up ---

VERA: How did you find out his name was Bigfoot?

EDWARD: Oh, I know all of this.

VERA: Okay, what is his real name?

EDWARD: His real name is Harry Thompson.

VERA: Harry Thompson, okay, that's --- I'd like to have some copies of some of that stuff.

EDWARD: You think I'm --- you ain't looking at no dummy, Vera.

VERA: I have a --- well you know how to research, I know that much.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: He was killed before, that was still being talked about when my folks came out there.

EDWARD: Now wait a minute, back up, back up, back up, back up.

VERA: So he was killed, what ---

EDWARD: Ira, Ira Bradley?

VERA: No, no, no, no, no, no, Thompson.

EDWARD: Harry Thompson was alive when Ira Bradley was killed. Yes.

VERA: Bigfoot Thompson?

EDWARD: Yes.

VERA: Oh, he was killed before my folks came out there.

EDWARD: No, no, wrong.

VERA: Well where in the heck did the man live?

EDWARD: I've got a picture of it. He --- the Thompson place was right above Bradley Spring. You know Bradley Meadows, you know where that ---

VERA: Yeah, it was in Lake County.

EDWARD: Okay. You go up the hill northeast about a mile, a mile and a half at the most, and there is a cabin, and that was Robert Brown's, Bill Brown's brother's original homestead.

VERA: Yeah, uh huh, I know that.

EDWARD: There is a little spring there.

VERA: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Well the place they called Thompson's place, there was a cabin there. Grace Bradley was born there in 1917. How ironic, right? It was later called Thompson's place. Now it is called the White place, I don't know why.

VERA: How come Grace was born there instead of at home?

EDWARD: She was born, and I asked her, I got it right here, she was born at the Thompson house on the place I just told you, in 1917.

VERA: Yeah. She was just a little younger than I.

EDWARD: She must have been born in the summer.

VERA: You don't have her birthday?

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah, I got it.

VERA: Well that's something I never knew. Because I always heard my dad, I heard it talked about, but that was all I heard. I heard it talked about.

EDWARD: Okay, let's ---

VERA: But I understood that Bigfoot Thompson was killed before my folks ever came out there.

EDWARD: How was this, how was this --- these are all the paper articles on all this stuff.

VERA: Yeah.

EDWARD: How was this Bigfoot Thompson killed?

VERA: I have no idea. All we know was that my dad said that he was found out there

dead. Where, I don't know, but I understand it was in Lake County.

EDWARD: This is all from the Bradley's on the deaths of their fathers, and how they, what kind of people they were.

VERA: Ira Bradley.

EDWARD: Oh, what are we looking for, Grace. What's going on here? Laura --- oh then you got the ... On June 10th, 1917 we moved to the Thompson ranch at Wagontire, that's the one I just was telling you about.

VERA: Well then, what date?

EDWARD: On June 10th, 1917.

VERA: Well that was about, would be about right.

EDWARD: Well Mama drove the hack, Ruth herded --- blah, blah. Where's the birthday? Oh, okay, here we go, just wait a second Vera.

VERA: I got it through my head now. They bought the Thompson place.

EDWARD: Okay, just a second. Pearl Grace Bradley was born August 28th, at the Thompson place, 1917.

VERA: 1917.

EDWARD: So they were, that's what I figured; they were there during the summer.

VERA: August the 28th, and she was --- I was born July 18th.

EDWARD: Okay.

VERA: She is just ---

EDWARD: Now, get this. Where the Thompson place was, was Robert Brown's property, Bill Brown's brother.

VERA: Well that's what I always understood.

EDWARD: Bill bought him out in 1891.

VERA: Yeah. He really bought him out, or they just left and let Bill have the land?

EDWARD: Okay, you know what the legal document says; they buy them out for fifty bucks, or whatever it was.

VERA: They buy them out. Oh ...

EDWARD: Whether he paid it or not, I don't know, doubtful. And then --- this is unbelievable, I just told Ray Gowdy this last night. I have Ira Bradley's probate records. Believe me, did that take a while to find that. Because they don't know, okay. That's one reason I got all this stuff for them. In the probate records, Ira Bradley didn't own a diddly piddly thing. He did not own that Bradley Meadows. You know who that was? Bill Brown. He was just squatting there. Bill Brown owned Bradley Meadows. Bill Brown owned where the Thompson house was. Bill Brown owned all that 320 acres right in front of Harry Arnold's place. But he sold out all of that Wagontire property to America Sutherland in 1932.

VERA: They did that?

EDWARD: Bill Brown.

VERA: In what year?

EDWARD: 1932, he sold out for \$7,000. 700 acres, it's all right in here.

VERA: To Mickie?

EDWARD: To Mickie.

VERA: What in the Sam hill was ---

EDWARD: That included South Creek Spring, that included Lost Creek Spring, and included Bradley Meadows.

VERA: What year did you say that was?

EDWARD: That included his original homestead. 1932, Bill Brown sold all of that to Mickie Sutherland.

VERA: Well then just why in the heck was --- and that couldn't be possible because of the

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: --- court records in Lakeview when they had the trial. A water hole trial with Dobkins.

EDWARD: Oh shoot, come on Sutherland, where are you. There you are.

VERA: '32?

EDWARD: 1932.

VERA: That's when we were having all the fights.

EDWARD: Yeah, Bill Brown owned all that.

VERA: I know Bill Brown owned that, but I never knew anything about Mickie ever buying any of it.

EDWARD: She bought ---

VERA: Nobody else knew about it.

EDWARD: Here it is right here. He bought all of this. There is Bradley Meadows; there is the Thompson place, all of this.

VERA: You mean Mickie did.

EDWARD: Mickie bought this in 1932. This is Bill Brown's on Lost ---

VERA: 1932. How much did she pay for it?

EDWARD: \$7,000. There is South Creek Spring. That's Lost Creek Spring; South Creek Spring is down over here.

VERA: Yeah, yeah. Well ---

EDWARD: See all those little squares? All 1932. That doesn't include over here. Now this is Harney County here, okay. There is Bunyard again, J. H. Bunyard. Yeah, I about fell over when I saw it.

VERA: Well my god then ---

... (Pause in tape)

VERA: ... the only thing ... is that son-of-a-bitch he'd shoot anybody, but I don't believe that.

EDWARD: What about don't ever turn your back on Link Hutton?

VERA: Oh.

EDWARD: Yeah. Well he's probably in love with you. (Laughter)

VERA: Well the only time --- well I'll tell you something. Us kids was raised out there on that desert and we never --- I never even saw a light bulb until I was 13 years old.

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

VERA: And then do you know who took me to Burns that I saw my first light bulb?

EDWARD: Bulb, light bill?

VERA: Mickie and Jim Sutherland took me to Burns. I don't know why Mama left me with her, but the folks had some business, it was my --- I don't know what it was; they had to go to Lakeview or something. And so they left me with Mickie and Jim, and Mick and Jim had to go to Burns so they took me along, and we stayed all night in the Burns Hotel. And we went out for supper, and I never had been out in my life, I'd never seen a light bulb before. And I looked at the menu and I saw they had tomatoes. When --- Mickie didn't realize I'd never been in a restaurant before. When the waiter came around he says, "What do you want?" And I said, "Tomatoes," and I got tomatoes.

EDWARD: Tomatoes.

VERA: A platter about this big, full.

EDWARD: Oh.

VERA: I ate until I couldn't hardly eat anymore. Jim and Mickie ate tomatoes, and we still couldn't eat them all up.

EDWARD: Okay, who killed Ira Bradley then? Tom Hutton?

VERA: I always said Tom Hutton did.

EDWARD: Because, you know, that Ira Bradley and Thompson were making moonshine. But Grace Bradley says that her father never drank a ---

VERA: Well I agree with Grace.

EDWARD: Never did drink? That don't --- yeah that ---

VERA: Bradley's were not drinking people; they were very, very religious people. Very religious people. And they were from Silver Lake.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: Do you know when my, one of the Addington's was burned up in that fire, at Silver Lake fire?

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: And my husband and I went over there a few years ago and was looking for the tombstones, trying to find the name of ---

EDWARD: 1894.

VERA: There was supposed to be two of my family burned in that. And we was trying to find them, and I started at one end of the cemetery, and Lewis started at the other, and Lewis yelled at me, "Come here Vera." I went over there and here was Harold and Ira Bradley's tombstones.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah. Look at this, H. H. Thompson, suspected in ranch murder. That's our old buddy, Bigfoot.

VERA: Well I never ... that before.

EDWARD: Now why would Thomas Hutton kill Ira Bradley? That would be 19---

VERA: Tom Hutton, after Tom and Rena divorced, Tom came back and he had his homestead up there on top of the mountain, where I just showed you on that blueprint, and he got sheep for some reason or other. Must be his sisters ---

EDWARD: Just to p.o. his sister and Link, and his brother?

VERA: Well he only had Lincoln and Mickie up there by that time.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

VERA: But he got sheep, and he run them up there on Bradley's land. Well you know sheep and cattle don't mix.

EDWARD: No.

VERA: And Bradley asked him to please keep his sheep off of his land. Well Tom didn't pay much attention to him, as I understand. Now this is just hearsay, what I remember them talking about.

EDWARD: Oh, yeah.

VERA: But there was something very odd about that, again my folks was involved because they knew everybody and had the post office.

EDWARD: But Bradley Meadow's was Bill Brown's. But Bill didn't

--- Bill never got into any of this; he stayed out of that mess.

VERA: Bill Brown was a very, very --- He was very religious.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: He was ---

EDWARD: Very Christian-like man.

VERA: Very Christian person. And he tried to do, stay --- he helped a lot of people. He turned his back on a lot of people that stole him blind. And he'd just turn his back on them and walk away. He never --- I don't believe Bill Brown ever got mad in his life.

EDWARD: Oh, one time he did. Well actually, three or four times.

VERA: He was only down to the post office two or three times. But some of the things that Ralph Freedman (sp.?) has wrote about him is absolutely not true.

EDWARD: B.S.

VERA: Well he writes in there that he came down --- Lane, our governor came down to visit Bill Brown and that he slept with Bill Brown. And Bill Brown was not clean, as nobody out there was clean, but he wasn't any dirtier than my dad was. Pop took a bath once a week. We never had any --- we had all our water from Grandma Hutton's place. But ---

EDWARD: Oh, that spring on the side of the mountain, south side?

VERA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah, that spring is still going.

VERA: Yeah, I imagine, because it was a good spring, and it was right close to the old house that burned down.

EDWARD: Yeah, the one that --- Grandma and Grandpa Hutton's is pooped out. It is not running anymore, right next to the house.

VERA: Well Dobkins lived there for a long time.

EDWARD: Yeah, he lived there for a while.

VERA: We, Dobkins let us still haul water from there. Well what was we talking about, we was talking about ---

EDWARD: Oh, Bill Brown and taking baths.

VERA: No. From --- we got from ---

EDWARD: Freedman.

VERA: He said that the governor had to sleep with Bill Brown at Wagontire. Wagontire was not even heard of then.

EDWARD: No, because it was 192---

VERA: I'd like to have a copy of that, but it would be awful hard to copy.

... (Pause in tape)

VERA: ... just told me some of it, because I didn't know that Mickie had ever bought any of that.

EDWARD: Oh yes.

VERA: But anyway, that could have had something to do with it. But Ira Bradley was found killed in his cabin.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: And they never could figure out who did it, or why. But, this is just plain hearsay. Tom Hutton was not a drinking man.

EDWARD: He wasn't, never?

VERA: Tom Hutton never drank, never drank.

EDWARD: Huh.

VERA: Until ---

EDWARD: That divorce?

VERA: Just before he died --- no, no he was ---

EDWARD: Oh, okay.

VERA: He was divorced from Lena years before that. I don't know the time or anything, the dates or anything, but Tom started drinking. He'd go into Burns, he was living alone, he'd go into Burns, and he had an old Model-T Ford, and he'd sit in the bar and drink. Everybody in Burns, everybody knew the Hutton's. Ranchers would come in and here is Tom sitting there drinking, and they couldn't imagine what in the heck was wrong with him. They couldn't figure out why all of a sudden Tom started drinking. And they never did solve Bradley's murder.

EDWARD: No.

VERA: They knew he and Tom was having trouble over the land.

EDWARD: I never found anything about Bradley's murder in either courthouse either.

VERA: Well I can't understand why they didn't put it down, because --- Why this one particular night Tom got awfully drunk and the bartender told him he better go up to the

Burns Hotel and get a room and not try to drive home. It was a cold winter night, and the Sagehen Hill was slippery. He just walked out, and the next day after it cleared up they found him dead in his car on the bottom of Sagehen Hill.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: Sagehen Hill used to go like this.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

VERA: Before it was cut down. Okay, when they started picking up the parts of the car and everything, there was no tire iron found and they began to wonder about it. I don't know anything about the particulars, whether the sheriff or what, but they figured that Ira had been killed with a blunt instrument hit from the back, hit from the back, his head bashed in. Well they went out there and searched the ---

SIDE B

VERA: Virg and I was there, and Mickie sat there by the stove with her cup of coffee, and she was nervous. She was shifty eyed. And I couldn't, I couldn't figure it out.

EDWARD: This would be 1930.

VERA: I couldn't figure her out. She was very, very nervous. And she finished her coffee and she sat there, and I can remember, see her yet, she sat there and twisted the fingers of her gloves until she just about twisted them off. And she didn't want to talk to either Virgil or I, we couldn't get her into conversation about anything, she just sat there and twisted those gloves. And I asked her if she wanted more coffee, and no.

EDWARD: Now this is at your father's and mom's place?

VERA: Our mom and dad's place.

EDWARD: Okay.

VERA: Mama was still working with the post, the mail. And Mama came in and Papa

came in, and Mama asked me if she wanted to have dinner with us. And Mickie said, "No, that she must get going." It was about the same time we heard a horse galloping out there. And I think it was Virgil went to the window, and he said there is somebody coming down the lane on the dead run. And I don't know who it was, I can't remember who it was. Somebody that we didn't know very well. And they came in, and they said we just found Ira Bradley dead in his cabin. Well put two and two together. Why was Mickie sitting there so darn nervous she couldn't even talk, and do nothing but twist her gloves into knots.

EDWARD: Where was Tom at the time, Tom Hutton? Who knows, huh?

VERA: Nobody knows. I think he was supposed to be in Burns.

EDWARD: You know Harry Arnold was there then too.

VERA: Yeah but I can't, I can't remember who is was that came down.

EDWARD: That lane.

VERA: And Papa ran out, and he came back in, and I can't remember of ever seeing that man before. And it could be the one you just mentioned.

EDWARD: Jess Pennington.

VERA: But he came in, and Papa says, "They just found Ira Bradley's body." And Mick knew, Mick was sitting there waiting for that man to come, that's the way I always put it. She knew he was, Mick knew Ira was dead. Mick knew Ira was dead, that's my own opinion.

EDWARD: That was in late April, April, about April 30th, 1930.

VERA: And that's why she was so damn nervous. And she knew Ira was dead, and she knew somebody would come to Wagontire.

EDWARD: Let's take five, I'm going to go out and have a smoke here.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: ... around South Creek Spring?

VERA: Frank Dobkins.

EDWARD: Frank Dobkins did, yeah.

VERA: I was just reading that this morning. He filed 40-acre homesteads all around South Creek. Oh, I've got so many; mine are all messed up here. ...

EDWARD: Did America Sutherland dislike Frank Dobkins?

VERA: Are you kidding?

EDWARD: I wasn't there, Vera.

VERA: That's a silly question.

EDWARD: She, America Sutherland, hated Frank Dobkins.

VERA: She hated Frank Dobkins, along with lots of other people, including the Addington's.

EDWARD: The Addington's didn't like Frank Dobkins either.

VERA: Austa and I never talk about that. That's one thing in all the years that Austa and I have been ---

EDWARD: Carla --- I mean ---

VERA: We don't mention ---

EDWARD: That guy look familiar? That's Frank Dobkins.

VERA: Yeah. That's sure an awful poor picture of him.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's all I got.

VERA: Say, talk about papers. I have all the papers on the trials out there, and Mother burned them when I went to ---

EDWARD: Oh no.

VERA: --- Alaska, when I was in Alaska, mother burned them. Frank was a --- well I can tell you that story too, it's part of

--- that's why I got out that book of Moore's. You know Moore went to school with --- Jackson was their teacher.

EDWARD: Yeah, Ray Jackson.

VERA: R. B. Jackson, Tomcat Jackson.

EDWARD: Tomcat, yeah. I've got quite a bit of stuff --- oh, you might like this.

VERA: Stay on one subject here at a time.

EDWARD: Yeah. On old Dobkins. Here, you can have that.

VERA: Dobkins was from Summer Lake. And --- anyway, according to this book here that was written by Earl Moore, who is a very, very close friend of ours, and my husband was in the Odd Fellow Lodge together for years, and he wrote this book, and he was raised in Summer Lake. And R. B. Jackson was his teacher, and R. B. Jackson was a no good womanizer. This doesn't have a, index.

EDWARD: I've got that book.

VERA: Did you pin the two stories together?

EDWARD: I don't remember if I even read that one. I collect that stuff. What kind of --- why did they dislike Dobkins anyway? That's the main point.

VERA: There was nothing wrong with Frank, except he was a little --- he could cuss faster than anybody I ever heard. He had, oh I don't know how to explain it, I don't know how to explain it. He was a little bit of a guy, and like lots of little guys, he tried to act big.

EDWARD: With his mouth if he could.

VERA: And his mouth was as dirty as anything could be.

EDWARD: Why did, why was it Burk shot him and killed him, murdered him really? How come Burk was ---

VERA: Well as I told you, Betty Carlon told me when I was over there in September that

her dad always did say that Mickie Sutherland hired him to kill him. No, we jump from one thing to another. We were on R. B. Jackson.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: Oh shoot, I can't find that, and it's not listed according to every index, and according to names. Anyway, Earl Moore went to school there with the Dobkins, and R. B. Jackson was their teacher. And R. B. Jackson served time in the pen for white slavery.

EDWARD: Oh, gee.

VERA: And when he got out of the pen he came out to Wagontire, to hide out with all the rest of the elephants.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: But anyway ---

EDWARD: I ain't afraid of them.

VERA: He got one of the Dobkins girls pregnant.

EDWARD: R. B. Jackson did that?

VERA: R. B. Jackson did.

EDWARD: And they all ended up in the same place.

VERA: And Jackson was put in prison. Well when Jackson got out of prison he came out to Wagontire. And Mr. Dobkins, Frank Dobkins' dad --- you couldn't meet a nicer man. He was an awfully nice man. But he was so mad when they let Jackson out of prison, the girl committed suicide. This ... that committed suicide. And Mr. Dobkins never did get over that. So he trained Frank with the idea from ... practically, to get even, revenge. And when they let Jackson out of jail, and he went out to Wagontire, that's when Dobkins came out there and bought the old Hutton place for Frank. That was in 1925.

EDWARD: Yeah, 1925 and '26, yeah.

VERA: Anyway, Dobkins came out there and his dad sent him out there for one thing,

and that was to kill R. B. Jackson. But Frank was not a killer. Frank was not a killer. He was loud mouthed, obnoxious, he could threaten. My brother could tell you that, oh boy he --- Ole Sodenberg and my brother was up there trying to fix up some of the fence that they cut up on our place, and Frank came along and, all Ole had in his hand for a weapon was his wire cutters. No, they was cutting the fence, that was it. And R. B. Jackson, or I mean Frank just cussed them up one side and down the other. Virgil was, never did get over that. He said, "Couldn't imagine any man using such foul words." But that's the way he was. May I use the foul word myself?

EDWARD: Sure.

VERA: The only way I can explain Frank Dobkins is he was a little piss ant. He was all bark and no bite. But when it got down to the nitty gritty of it, he could not kill R. B. Jackson. So he hired it done. And the guy that he hired, his, all I can remember his name was Harry, he was a good for nothing, slow moving, tall tramp that came out through there. And he never told anybody --- I don't know whether anybody knew his name except Harry.

EDWARD: Just a second.

VERA: He worked for my dad, he worked for my dad, he worked for Hutton's. Harry, first name was Harry.

EDWARD: You're sure? I got --- I know what it is.

VERA: What was his last name, yeah. How did they find his name?

EDWARD: Willard, or Will ---

VERA: He worked for my dad. He shot --- that was in 1935.

EDWARD: '38.

VERA: No, we left there in '36.

EDWARD: Okay.

VERA: We left there in '36.

EDWARD: Jackson was killed in 1938.

VERA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Henry Welcher.

VERA: Henry Welcher, Henry. Okay, we hired him to kill some of our old horses. One of my saddle horses got cancer so bad, that when we left the place --- and the last time we saw that man he was leading the --- Papa paid him \$5 apiece for taking Fannie and Flossie out and killing them, because we couldn't stand to do it ourself. They were just like killing, was our family.

And Jackson was --- well to go back again; out in that country when you was out riding on the range, if you got hungry you just went into somebody's house and fixed yourself a meal. And Papa and I was riding for some reason or other over, clear over at Harry Arnold's place to gather up the cattle one year. And we came by and stopped at Jackson's and he wasn't home. So we went in ---

EDWARD: The big white house?

VERA: Yeah, though it is not there anymore.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah it is.

VERA: Tom Hutton's place is still there, where Roy Carlon lived.

EDWARD: Yeah, Jackson's place is still there.

VERA: Well I don't know how you found them, and I went out there and ---

EDWARD: Go ahead, keep going, keep going.

VERA: Anyway, Papa and I went in and fixed ourselves something to eat. And he had a well-kept pantry; his pantry was just stocked with good stuff. So I reached up to get a jar of, a can of peaches. He didn't can. A can of peaches, and doggone if it wasn't empty. And we found out something that we shouldn't have found out. Probably old Harry found

it out too.

EDWARD: Harry Arnold?

VERA: No, I forgot the name, the guy ---

EDWARD: Henry.

VERA: --- Henry that worked for everybody. He had worked for Jackson for quite a while.

EDWARD: Welcher.

VERA: He had worked for us. But anyway, he stayed out there for several years. He got quite friendly with Jack Robertson.

EDWARD: Punk, Punk.

VERA: No, Jack --- Well they called him Punk, was his ...

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: But we just assumed that he had found out that Jackson didn't trust banks. He would take a can of peaches or a can of pears and be careful with the label, and he'd open them on the bottom and use the fruit out of them, and wash them and put his roll of money in there, and put it back on, and set it back up in the shelf. And about every three or four can you pulled down off the shelf had a roll of money in it.

EDWARD: This Henry Welcher ---

VERA: Oh yeah, he lived with Jackson for quite a while. And we always did figure that he killed Jackson.

EDWARD: Where did he end up? He just took off?

VERA: He left the country just the way he got there. There was hobos going through that country constantly till you couldn't believe it.

EDWARD: Well who was this Punk Robertson?

VERA: Punk Robertson?

EDWARD: Yeah, this guy.

VERA: Well he was just another --- well Hollie told me he got --- Hollie told me a story that I don't know. I says --- he said that, Punk Robertson and Jim Burk met in prison.

EDWARD: That's very true.

VERA: And I says, "What in the Sam hill was Punk Robertson in prison for?" He says, "Horse thieving."

EDWARD: He stole some of Bill Brown's horses.

VERA: Well what in the hell don't they put R. B. --- why are they putting old Rube Long up on a pedestal and acting like he was a saint?

EDWARD: I don't know.

VERA: Rube Long stole our horses, and everybody else's horses.

EDWARD: He stole as much as he could get away with.

VERA: That's the way he made his living was off of Bill Brown's horses until he was about in his 40's.

EDWARD: That's the gate that Dobkins was shot at by the way.

VERA: Well he was killed after we were there.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: And Jim Burk, the guy that bought our place, killed him.

EDWARD: Right. Yeah, no doubt about that. There is ---

VERA: No, there is no doubt about that.

EDWARD: There is R. B. Jackson's place. I took that not two weeks ago.

VERA: Well now that is the place that Roy Carlon ---

EDWARD: Yeah, that was R. B. Jackson's place.

VERA: That's the place. We got there as my husband and our granddaughters got, is just out here, this gate, and it was padlocked and we couldn't get through.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: And Roy was living there at the time, but he wasn't there.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah. That was Homer and Austa Carlon's place. After Jackson died they got it.

VERA: Yeah, they bought it. But I didn't know ---

EDWARD: Yeah, it's still there. It's falling apart.

VERA: Well what happened to the place where ---

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Yeah, because I needed some.

VERA: I've got some film --- well I've got it in small pictures.

EDWARD: So we thought that Welcher killed Jackson for the money he stored in cans.

VERA: That's right. And he was no good. That guy was no good. He was shifty eyed, you know what I mean?

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

VERA: He went around and worked for people. He wouldn't talk very much. Last time we saw him we paid him, Papa paid him \$5 a head to go out and kill Flossie and Fannie.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Grandma Hutton's house, two story. Was it two-story?

VERA: It was a two-story house with lots of porches. I got pictures about the --- here is all my pictures, Wagontire pictures.

EDWARD: Okay, let me look.

VERA: I can show you pictures very similar to the ...

EDWARD: I cannot --- Burns Cemetery, I don't need that.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: ... had a porch that ---

VERA: The porch is ---

EDWARD: Sam and Caroline Hutton's house had porches like kind of all around it?

VERA: Not all around it, no. They had a big porch. There was three doors, they was a side door that went into the parlor that had the blue glass, something like this, a porch on the ... Then there was a front porch that you went into the front way, it was facing the south. The back door faced towards the north.

EDWARD: And you're saying that house burnt down way before you guys left Wagontire?

VERA: Oh my yes, oh my yes.

EDWARD: So you guys left Wagontire when, Vera?

VERA: '36.

EDWARD: '36.

VERA: November of '36.

EDWARD: So whose house was the second one?

VERA: Well Carlon's lived there for a while. Frank Dobkins stayed with them.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: But ---

EDWARD: I know the Carlon's, Austa told me they stayed ---

VERA: There could have been part of the house restored or some-thing. Maybe it was torn down. But Grandma Hutton's house was a two-story ... That's just about the era it was built. Do you drink coffee?

EDWARD: No thanks, Vera.

VERA: I don't either, but I ---

EDWARD: I don't like that stuff.

VERA: Well I don't drink coffee, but I keep this Sanka, my son likes it. I've got a ...

EDWARD: I only drink it in the morning.

VERA: Well I can't remember ...

... (Pause in tape)

VERA: How come she never told anybody about it?

EDWARD: I don't know. I don't know what was with Mick sometime; do you, with Mickie Sutherland? Mickie Hutton ---

VERA: Mickie Hutton ---

EDWARD: America Mickie Hutton Foster Sutherland.

VERA: When Mick, I don't know whether Ike Foster had died before that or not, but it is a known fact ---

EDWARD: Ike Foster died in 1916.

VERA: When?

EDWARD: 1916.

VERA: I know he died before --- well no, Papa knew him, that's right. I --- died before I was born. But we do know for a fact that Mick Sutherland, I don't know who else, took one whole band of sheep and for no reason at all run them over one of the rim rocks out there.

EDWARD: That was common, yeah.

VERA: They know that for a fact.

EDWARD: And I can probably tell you which one it was. (Laughter)

VERA: You're a darn good researcher. Should have had you over there with me in Burns when I was trying to do all that research.

EDWARD: If I want to use one of these, can I take --- oh, you got it on there. If I want to use that one ---

VERA: Well that's the same one on the front of that ---

EDWARD: Yeah. But I mean for ---

VERA: That's our place.

EDWARD: Right. And, whoops.

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: Vera met Bill Brown a couple times in her life. Okay, go.

VERA: He come down one time with a stagecoach which was ---

EDWARD: To Wagontire.

VERA: To Wagontire, to the post office.

EDWARD: To post office.

VERA: Post office.

EDWARD: Which was Wagontire in 1917.

VERA: It was ---

EDWARD: Or 1919.

VERA: No, it was Egli in 1917, it was changed in ---

EDWARD: 1919.

VERA: In 1919. It was put on the map in 1919. Oh, here we go again. I just had that paper in my hand and ---

EDWARD: Go, go, go, Bill Brown.

VERA: Anyway, Bill Brown came down and he was a very, very mild mannered man. And he was, us kids was always standing around looking like a bunch of hungry pups, the way we went around while Mother was getting the mail out. We went around to the porch, he went around and sat on our front porch, and I went around there and sat down next to him. And he had his overcoat.

EDWARD: That house?

VERA: That house, but it was after the porch was added. Look at the other one.

EDWARD: Okay.

VERA: See the front porch? And he was jumping on something, and I must have looked at him like a hungry pup, and he reached in his pocket and gave me a handful of raisins. And I was eating them, and after the --- Jack Choate said he was ready to leave, he was the mail carrier at that time. Brown left, and Mother came around and she says, "What are you eating?" And I says, "Mr. Brown gave me a handful of raisins." And she went in and gave me a dose of ipecac, made me sick. And I started crying, and she says, "He's used to it," but she says, "he always carries raisins in the pocket and there is strychnine mixed into it." And they, some people say he carried strychnine in his pocket, but he had it in those little strychnine bottles, little bitty bottles. And he would poison the lamb that they killed, and killed coyotes.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: Because he was always --- all the shepherders out there had trouble with coyotes. But that's the first time I ever met the old fellow. And the second time he came down with somebody else, and I didn't know who it was, and he wanted to see Papa on business.

EDWARD: This would be --- what was your father's name?

VERA: Luther Addington.

EDWARD: Luther.

VERA: Luther Addington. He wanted to see Papa on business, and that was when I was old. I must have been about, probably 15 or 16 at the time, or was I. Anyway, I don't know what he came down for, but he was quite well dressed, he looked clean. And I was surprised, he must have been over to Prineville and cleaned up or something. But that's the only two times I remember of seeing the old man. But I got my impression that he was a very kind, very easy going, very religious person.

EDWARD: Yeah, you're right.

VERA: He never raised his voice at anybody. He never swore, he never drank, he never cussed.

EDWARD: Never smoked.

VERA: Never smoked.

EDWARD: Rode the hell out of horses and killed them, but that was all right.

VERA: Bill Brown never rode horses.

EDWARD: Oh yeah he did.

VERA: Very seldom.

EDWARD: Oh very seldom.

VERA: Very seldom.

EDWARD: He would walk most of the time.

VERA: He would walk and lead a horse. But very seldom would Bill Brown ride horses. I don't know why, maybe he had some injury, back or something, but he preferred to walk.

EDWARD: He was afraid that he would get caught in the stirrups, and it would drag him to death.

VERA: I had never heard that.

EDWARD: Yeah. And he wore his shoes unlaced as much as he could if he rode a horse.

VERA: Yeah, I remember that, that he never left his shoes unlaced. He just never had laces in his shoes.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: But there has been so many lies told about him. Like oh one guy said, Roy Stauffer told a story around that he would go around with one sock on and one sock off, and he just had a store full of socks but he'd only wear one sock at a time, and then switch it around. Keep blisters off.

EDWARD: No.

VERA: And they tell some of the --- and like he had Lane, Governor Lane down there and had to sleep with him, and he, Lane stand the smell. Those were all lies. He may have smelled a little bit like sheep, but sheep smells good. I'm a sheepherder myself. I always had sheep.

EDWARD: They made up stories of him because he would take it, he wouldn't say much. He'd just do his business.

VERA: Well Roy Stauffer's was another one that swore up and down that he was, had proposed to Mick Sutherland. Well he --- Mick Hutton, and that she had ---

EDWARD: That may be true.

VERA: I doubt it, I doubt it.

EDWARD: Because ---

VERA: Because she was only 17 when she married Ike Foster.

EDWARD: Yeah. See Ike Foster died in 1916, that's --- anyway they had Frank Foster, and Frank Foster's daughter Mary told me that her grandmother told her once, that yeah, Bill was in love with her. Not proposed, but it was in love with her.

VERA: Well he probably, he may have been in love with a lot of women, but it was always at a distance. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Look at some of these ---

... (Pause in tape)

EDWARD: I'll work --- my batteries are getting low. Now Melvin Addington, your brother, and Harold Bradley when they were 16 took some sheep, some of Bill Brown's sheep ---

VERA: From the Gap Ranch to the Buck Creek Ranch.

EDWARD: And what was the problem? What did they have a time ...

VERA: Well just two boys out by themselves, and they had a time surviving. They had

just their donkeys and the dogs. And it was quite a trip for two 16-year-old boys. That's quite a trip across there from the Gap Ranch to the Buck Creek Ranch.

EDWARD: Yeah, it is pretty desolate, it's about 30 miles maybe.

VERA: And with a band of sheep you don't travel very fast.

EDWARD: It's about 2,000.

VERA: You don't travel very fast. Melvin could tell a lot of stories about their days out there.

EDWARD: You know, Gap Ranch is still standing.

VERA: Just some of the buildings, yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: The windmill used to be there.

EDWARD: It's still there. Oh yeah, across the road, Vera, you know across the road from the Gap Ranch, the main highway?

VERA: Yeah.

EDWARD: There is two stone houses. Was that the CCC?

VERA: Oh that's the CC. That's where the --- CC's had their --- but there is another, oh what is it, that has a do out there now?

EDWARD: BLM?

VERA: No, not BLM. More like the --- more like the fire, something to do with the fire service. It's on the maps.

EDWARD: Boy I got --- yeah, I've got those maps down. Oh, that's --- just a second. Dobkins, you guys, the Addington family left in '36, they left the Wagontire Mountain area, right?

VERA: We left there in November the 22nd, 1936.

EDWARD: Never to return to live?

VERA: Papa went back and sold it to Jim Burk. And then Jim Burk was sent to prison, and then Hollie Schroder bought it.

EDWARD: Did Jim Buck Burk; did he buy your house?

VERA: He bought our place.

EDWARD: He bought, he bought, Buck Burk bought this place.

VERA: Jim Burk.

EDWARD: Jim.

VERA: Yes, he bought that whole kit and caboodle, all that and all the land we bought around. See Papa and Mama had the original homestead. And then they bought Kerns, the folks did, and they bought Ramsey's homestead, and they bought Levens homestead, and Westfall's homestead, which made quite a bit of land for us.

EDWARD: Did that make up Addington Field?

VERA: That's Addington Field, what they call on the map today.

EDWARD: And ---

VERA: It would be, I would have to sit down and figure it up.

EDWARD: Looks --- oh yeah, that's all right. You can see ---

VERA: Uh, what was it now, 160 acres was allowed to a person.

EDWARD: Yeah, 320 in some cases.

VERA: Well 320 if Papa and Mama both had it. And that's what Papa and Mama --- Papa, they proved up together so they got 320. And then Kerns only had 620 that they got. Ramsey's had 620, that was a long --- Westfall's had 80 acres apiece, which is 160. Here is our horse that --- you want to hear a story about that?

EDWARD: Now this is what you've been looking for.

VERA: That's my sister Lola, she married Lester Tyler. She just was one of them. She married Lester Tyler, and when they, just before they were married, Lester was always

going to all the horse auctions. They had big horse auctions over at the Double O, out there by the Double O. And he went down there and he recognized Laddie, and he went over and asked the buyers where he got that horse, the brand had been run off.

EDWARD: Yeah, hot potatoed probably.

VERA: He said he bought it; they had bought it from Rube Long. Well Lester came out to the ranch and he told Ole, he says, "I found your horse." Ole says, "Where did you find it?" He told him. And he said Rube Long had stole him and took him over there and sold it, this guy that has the auctions. Ole says, "Why didn't you buy him back?" And Lester just said, ... wouldn't want him back. What he meant by that, I don't know.

EDWARD: Probably run it.

VERA: Here is the other one that I was looking at, shows our old

EDWARD: Probably run it to death.

VERA: No, no, I think it was abused. He was a gentle, because you can see there.

EDWARD: There is the schoolhouse again.

VERA: And that's our freight wagon. And if it hadn't of been for that wagon there, and a good team, we wouldn't have been able to stay there.

EDWARD: I was just going to ask you, how in the world your father made somewhat of a living to buy something to feed all you guys.

VERA: We ate a lot of jackrabbits and sagehens. You couldn't raise a garden. Papa planted the whole place in corn one year, and the rabbits ate it up faster than they could come up through the ground. This was our team. It wasn't a matched team, but old Red and Fannie. One of our --- a pet was killed, the match to Red, the big one there. He was killed, he stepped through the back ... broke his leg and Papa had to kill him.

EDWARD: Yeah. Looks like you're hauling --- no it's hay, I think it's hay.

VERA: Yeah, it's hay. That's Virgil and I, that's me sitting, Virgil and I sitting there. Mama and Virgil and I laying there with my head on Virgil's shoulder. Asleep probably.

EDWARD: Did you see --- did a lot of people come by the old post office there, that's hanging there on side of the Addington cabin? Did a lot of people just come in and chat and B.S.?

VERA: Out there in that country, if somebody like, well big Joe Abasola, or little Jimmy Osamas (sp.?), out in the sheep camps, out on Hart Mountain that come by, they would come in and eat their meals and stay overnight and go back the next day. Ole Sodenberg used to come into the post office twice a year, in the spring and the fall, and he'd get our catalog and sit down and make out his order for clothes. And then he'd tell us good-bye and come back in about three weeks thinking his clothes were there. And if they were, why he would always take a bath at our place and change his clothes, and wash his dirty clothes and hang them out on the line, and leave. If they weren't there he would work for us for a week and then wait until his clothes came. Because they had to ride 36 miles.

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

VERA: And they weren't making that trip back and forth everyday. He always took a bath at our place.

EDWARD: Where did you guys get your water, out of that spring up on the hill?

VERA: We had shallow wells that was good in the wintertime. But in the spring we hauled our water from Grandma Hutton's place.

EDWARD: Right. Now who is this crew?

VERA: That is, starting from the right, that's my dad, Mother sitting on the running board holding me, then it's Virgil, then Lola, and that's Albert Wagner at this end.

EDWARD: Wonder what happened to that car? (Laughter)

VERA: We had one just like it. That's Albert's there, that's Albert's ---

EDWARD: Now this one is older, this is about 1918 or something like that.

VERA: Our first Ford was a '21.

EDWARD: The summers, Vera, my god there is no shade out there. It gets hotter than you know what. I mean what --- oh geeze!

VERA: We had no electricity, no trees. We never knew any different.

EDWARD: Yeah. Didn't even --- you didn't ask, you just lived it and said the heck with it.

VERA: We didn't know there was any other kind of a life.

EDWARD: But your mom and dad did though.

VERA: I'll tell you they did. Mother just about went crazy when they moved --- they were raised, both of them was born and raised in Iowa. Mother in Guthrie County, or Dallas County, and Papa in Lincoln --- in Lee County. There is all of our family. Now that's all sisters and brothers. A lot of people look at that and thinks that a mother and dad and three kids, but it isn't. The one holding me is my oldest sister; she is 18 years older than I.

EDWARD: Who is that bald headed chick there? (Laughter)

VERA: That's me.

EDWARD: I wonder who that could be.

VERA: That's me.

EDWARD: I knew ---

VERA: Virgil, and Lola and Melvin. They are all gone now except me.

EDWARD: Yeah. Well I'm the only child too, so I know what that's like. You guys, somebody in this picture, this was '35, grubbed a lot of sagebrush.

VERA: Why heavens that's --- we had to clear all of that. We had to clear all of that, the whole --- the whole 620 acres we had to clear. And now it is right back there like that again.

EDWARD: Almost, almost.

VERA: Well it is, it's --- you can't hardly --- the sagebrush ---

Well I took my granddaughters out there to show them where I was born and raised, and there is old boards. I found part of Virgil's old bedstead out there.

EDWARD: That would be kind of interesting. Well there is where Virgil slept. (Laughter)

VERA: Well it was upstairs --- it looked like when they tore down the side --- Hollie tore the house down, and all that is left is scrap lumber. I would love to go out there and spend a weekend, clean that place up. Somebody told my oldest sister years ago, over at the --- that we had went off and left the wells all open, and cows had fell in them and couldn't get out, and that's not true at all, because Papa sealed all the wells over and everything before we left there. And what they did after we left there ---

EDWARD: Who knows?

VERA: Jim Burk lived there, oh probably a year or maybe more. But Hollie can't get it through his head ---

EDWARD: Yeah, about two years.

VERA: Hollie can't get it through his head, because he says Vera I dealt directly with your dad on buying that place. Well I says, "Well I've got the receipts where Jim Burk paid Papa \$300 and he was supposed to pay \$300 a year until he paid \$900."

EDWARD: \$900 for ---

VERA: We sold all that place for \$900. The buildings was in good condition. Even a brand new door on the front door. And Hollie

--- I don't understand it, and neither did Hollie. After Burk went to prison ---

EDWARD: 1939.

VERA: It could have been that the state took over and he lost it.

EDWARD: But somebody owns it now.

VERA: Hollie bought it, but he didn't remember how much he paid for it. He says, "I dealt directly with your dad." Well if he dealt directly with my dad instead of buying Jim Burk's equity, the state would have had to have taken his, when he went to prison.

EDWARD: Yeah.

VERA: They ---

EDWARD: Well maybe your dad did buy ---

VERA: ... something like that, years old.

EDWARD: He had just gotten out of prison.

VERA: But he just got out of jail.

EDWARD: Right.

VERA: I never knew he was in prison.

EDWARD: Yeah, he was in the state penitentiary.

VERA: He was in the state penitentiary?

EDWARD: He shot a deputy sheriff down in Klamath County.

VERA: Well I never knew that.

EDWARD: In 1925, yeah.

VERA: That's in the --- We never knew what, we knew he had been in prison or in jail, whatever. But he came out there and bought our place. After we moved away from there, Papa went back and we heard about it. I don't know who the folks heard about it from, that he was interested in our place. But Papa and one of his grandchildren, Elmer Addington, went back out there and they made the deal with him that he paid \$300 a years, and they paid \$900 plus the interest, a little bit. They had the papers all made out. He paid Papa \$300.

EDWARD: You have that receipt?

VERA: Oh golly, I don't know, I might have. I've got a trunk full of junk in there. But

anyway, then he killed Dobkins. But why he killed Dobkins is the story that --- My brother Virgil wrote to Jim Burk all the time he was in prison.

EDWARD: Prison.

VERA: And the letter that Jim Burk wrote to my brother was that he had come to Lakeview and applied for the route, the state route to run from Burns to Lakeview. He would be delivering everybody's mail, you know. That's when they had the --- after the highway was through they had, turned it into a rural ...

EDWARD: This is what Buck Jim Burk is telling your brother in a letter?

VERA: No, I never knew his name was Buck; we always called him Jim Burk.

EDWARD: Yeah, James.

VERA: But anyway he told Virgil that he had applied for the post office. And he must have not been a very educated man, because you have to be bonded to haul mail. And Frank Dobkins made the effort to go to Lakeview and tell the authorities, the postal authorities, that he was an ex-con. And Jim Burk went down and they told him that his application had been turned down because he was a convict. And so he went on the rampage and put his six guns on and went looking for Mike Dobkins, and he caught him up there with Homer Carlon and Frank Dobkins. He claims all he said was, "What did you turn me in for, you son-of-a-bitch," and shot him.

EDWARD: You know that gun that he shot Dobkins with is in the Harney County Museum?

VERA: Harney County --- my god ---

EDWARD: You know that?

VERA: Why --- no I didn't know it. I went through --- I stayed there in that Silver Spur Motel and went over there all the time.

EDWARD: I mean, Marcus Haines said that. And I've got records to prove that's the gun,

I've got it in here.

VERA: Well what on earth have they got that gun for? What do they ---

EDWARD: It's the old Colt 45 with a short handle on it. It's hanging up there. What's her face, Sharon Jones, is going to take a picture of it for me, because I didn't have my flash with me when I was in Burns.

VERA: Well what do you want that for?

EDWARD: I don't know. Because I just get all this stuff.

VERA: I don't know where --- Jim Burk could have bought it in Lakeview, he could have bought it in ---

(END OF TAPE)

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