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HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #38 - Side A

Subject: George Hibbard

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: May 14, 1974

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

Release Form: No

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Okay, let's start with Mr. Barnes again. You said his name was E. W. Ed Barnes, and he came in 1919.

GEORGE HIBBARD: Yeah. And first got the idea of harvesting this ponderosa pine. And at that time, as I understand it, it was the largest untapped log pine stand in the West, in the United States. And he then interested a Mr. Herrick of St. Maries, Idaho in coming here to start a mill.

The Forest Service had agreed to sell this timber on a selective cut system. But Mr. Barnes, being a pretty smart cookie, he came in here first, and then took options on the Warm Springs and a lot of land on the south edge of Burns. And then when the Forest Service sold it, he had it included in the contract that it would have to be manufactured in Burns, and not up in the woods, or Seneca, or anywhere else.

So when Herrick came, the first thing he had to do was build a railroad from Burns. Well the Union Pacific came in here in 1924, and so he had to build from here on up to Seneca. The --- Mr. Barnes having these options, he held the price up pretty high. And it actually forced the Company, when the Hines Company eventually took over, went to build a Company town to --- instead of building right next to Burns, which they would have liked to have done, instead of the Company town adjoining Burns, with the Burns business district. They had to move out a couple of miles further out, and buy land which was the old Geer place, where Egan is, the Cal Geer property.

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And that's where the north end of Hines, the north street of Hines, is right at the edge of the old Geer property. In fact when they first built it, there was still fruit trees on the point of, well just up there on Saginaw, and down this way, where the Geer orchard was still alive at that time out there.

And so actually, it was his greediness that forced them that much further out, and its really brought about the fact that we're going to be a six or seven mile strip town, rather than one unified town with the business district here, and nothing except the bedroom community in Hines. And it was unfortunate, there were others that also did the same thing, it wasn't just Mr. Barnes. (Barnes finally had the Welcome Hotel in Burns.)

... (Pause in tape)

GEORGE: In 1929, I worked for Hines during the summer. Old F. W. Pettibone was the original general manager, during construction here, and they needed somebody to drive their cars to take officials and pick up officials, because there was no regular --- there was a stage between here and Bend, but no busses or anything. And so I went to work for them right after the school was out in the summer of '29 and '30, '29 and '30, just the summertime, and worked till school started. And they had three different automobiles. One was a Will St. Clair limousine, with a windshield between the front and back seats, and a telephone in it and everything.

PAULINE: Oh my goodness, a Will St. Clair?

GEORGE: Uh huh. Well the Willys Jeep is actually, was built by Harry Willys, Henry, whatever his name was, Willys. And Willis Knight was also a car built by one of his protégés. But anyway, that summer I drove Mr. F. W. Pettibone, the father of C. J. Pettibone, the younger, later managed the mill after the start of operations.

WOMAN: ...

GEORGE: Well not, that's right.

PAULINE: ...

GEORGE: Okay. We'll put that in right here, because Herrick went broke about 1928. He had reached the end of his financial ---

PAULINE: Well he, and he built --- there was really quite a little bit, a piece of the mill finished.

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GEORGE: Yeah, he had the foundation, lots of foundation laid out there. Well of course the construction camps, they had these boxcars for living quarters, or they're more than boxcars, but they're just like boxcars, on the railroad track out there. And that was the Hines offices, I mean the Herrick offices, and then the architects, you know, and things like that.

And then as they got further along, after Herrick found --- well now I've got something else. Now Herrick went until about 1928, or thereabouts, and he reached the end of his financial rope, and he decided that he couldn't finish it. And so the Hines people were asked if they wanted it, if they wanted to take it over. And they, of course, had been up in Red Lake Wisconsin; I mean Minnesota, and Lumberton, Mississippi, and Heart Falls, Wisconsin.

And so Edward Hines was, at the time, was in London. And Ralph was his oldest son, living, and he said, "We'll call Dad up and see what he said." And they called him up, and he said, "Well go ahead and buy it." So they bought Herrick out.

Now I've thought of somebody else back there, that I've got to go back and pick up. When Herrick decided to come in here, he sent in an, what do you call them, an appraiser of the woods, that goes and scales the amount of timber there is in an area. And his name was J. W. Girard, Jim Girard, and they lived right where Fawcetts live here at the time. And he was --- his boy was just a little younger than I was. And so I went with them at times when they'd go on these appraisal trips up into the woods. And we'd--- he'd get, park the car, and we'd sit in the car and he'd take off and go around through so many sections and see what it would scale a square mile, or an acre, or whatever way he did it. And Girard's son later became the head of a timber scaling company that did nothing but that in Portland and Salem, and down into the Medford area. Jim Girard Timber Appraisal Company. And then he died, and his boy did part of that. I think the girl still lives in the Beaverton area. I'm not sure. But that's the gist of it. And I know that you can --- there is a lot of local people were tied in with this. When they first came in, there was sort of like an "Inner 10". The local Chamber of Commerce, and businessmen that were, had sort of an in with them. And Mr. Donegan, the elder, not Pat but his father, Jimmy Donegan that they named the park after, where the old swimming tank was, that was Jimmy Donegan Park out there at the end of the log pond. And

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they were sort of the ones that kept it, so the cooperation of the local area. But if you would start, say in 1919, in the files of the paper, and just, and I'm sure you could just go page by page of the week, front page of the Times-Herald for instance. And Julian Byrd was one of the men, along with Donegan, and Archie McGowan.

PAULINE: I think that I interviewed Julian and he, I think maybe I got some information that he gave me. I'm not sure, but it seems like he talked about the mill coming in.

GEORGE: Well of course they were the businessmen of the town, and that's what they needed was the cooperation. And that's why, you see, not only --- well Mr. Hanley, I don't suppose he had any particular interest other than the fact that he was glad the railroad came in here. I was reading his book the other day, and he was telling about when the railroad tracks came through his property on Section 5 there. There was a siding called Hanley, used to be. But he was reminiscing about how it had been before, and driving their cattle to Ontario or Winnemucca, to get them to the rail lines.

But I think if you would just --- particularly the Times-Herald, front page, week by week through some of that era it would give you a pretty good summary of the way it developed. Of course there was a lot that I know that is hearsay, and people's memories are faulty.

My brother was here awhile ago, and we was reading this diary of my sister's, and he was correcting me on several things that I thought that I had remembered correctly that Dad had told me. But it wasn't the way it actually happened, because he was there. Because, for instance in that, I think I told this on tape when the --- a young couple were here, you know, that did this before you started, that while they were doing this dental work, he collected all the way along. And it was all in coin, you know, silver and gold. And it was, I thought, between the Alvord and Andrews that this occurred, but it was out of Andrews.

They were going for a ride, and there was some men there that knew that he was carrying quite a lot of money, and they decided to hold him up. And Llewellyn did the driving, and when they were going to have to cross one of these washes where the spring runoff comes off the south side of the Steens and makes deep gullies across the road, and they knew he'd have to go down in low gear to get across that slowly. And so they got down in the gully, just upstream from the road,

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and there were three of them, and they had a 22 rifle, and they were on their hands and knees so they wouldn't show above the wash, and crawling.

And the guy with the rifle happened to be the second one instead of the first one. And they were crawling along on their hands and knees, why the rifle went off and shot the guy in front of him in the rump. And so then they went --- when they came back, then they came to him and said we've had a man wounded here, and he needs some attention. Well then somebody told him what these guys were trying to do, how he got shot. Dad said, "Well I'll get the bullet out of him," but he said, "I don't know how gentle I'll be." So he took a wire probe and reached into the wound and pulled it out. And then one of the other fellows, there were three of them, got a nosebleed, and was a bleeder. And he told Dad he said, "I had this once in San Francisco, and the only way the doctors could stop it was to pack my nostril." Well Dad said, "I don't know how you can stop it from going down the pallet." So he took this same little wire with the bent hook and put it through his nostril, and pulled this wad of cotton on the back of his tongue, and got the wire hooked into it and pulled it up into the back of the nostril and plugged it from the back. Unhooked his wire and got it out. He said, "I'm not going to be too gentle with this." But he got it out, and plugged the front of the nostril, and got the nosebleed stopped. That was some of the perils of the trip.

PAULINE: Why that was a good story, that the robbers get ---

GEORGE: Their comeuppance.

PAULINE: Yeah, they really got theirs.

GEORGE: And also on that trip they went up to Wildhorse Lake, they rode up there, drove down there. And you know there is some apricot trees on the way up, and the fruit was ripe when they were there. They were down there --- well the middle of May until the latter part of August. And when they got home --- they didn't know it until they got back, but the war with Germany, the First World War had broken out in Germany. Well that was when the Duke over in Sarajevo was shot, you know, or whatever he was, a count. Anyway that occurred while they were gone, and they didn't know about it until they got back that summer. That's how the communications were to the South End there. But it was ---

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PAULINE: Well how old was Llewellyn?

GEORGE: He was 14, June the 16th. Well let's see, Dad was born in '63, and that was --- I can't figure it out here.

PAULINE: Well he would have been in his 50's.

GEORGE: Yeah. But Mrs. Hayden recorded several of these stories in the ... books. Because she came up here one time to visit her sister, and of course was one of my --- she came over here and that's when my niece Doris at the Co-op was about 6 years old. And she and Scott Maitland and Jimmy Sheppard, it's when Shep was in the bank, and they lived right in the bank house back there where Henry ---

PAULINE: Dickerson.

GEORGE: --- Dickerson lives. And they were here, and I was telling them these stories. Well I was just doing it to entertain the kids. And she says, "I'm going to bring my notebook up, and I want you to tell me these same stories you were telling those kids." And that's where she got the idea of putting them in ... stories. The first one has about me and this phone. And I think the next one was about Eugenia and the rattlesnakes. And another one had --- one time --- you know where the, Ansel Marshall lives up the old Teddy Smith place?

PAULINE: Yeah.

GEORGE: Well, you know, you go between the hillside and along side that field there coming down to the river, and there is a cut bank right by, before you get to the, the creek comes down by Ted Hayes, and Arntz place up in there. And then you go with the house and down east towards the river. Well up on that hill at the left, there is a bluff that drops right down into the river. The river bends right around the base of that cliff. And on the front of it, up near the top, was an eagle's nest, a golden eagle. And he wanted the eggs out of it. And so he let Eugenia down on a rope over the cliff, down into the nest. She wasn't so sure that the eagle was going to let her get back out of there, but she got the eggs back up to him, and pulled, he pulled her back up. And he did that other places too. But --- getting eggs. But that was told in that.

PAULINE: I'll have to get that out and read it again. It's been a long, long time since I've read it.

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GEORGE: Well I'd forgotten about a lot of them. But I --- that shelves over there are all Oregon history. I segregated all my books that I knew were particularly southeastern Oregon. Well, you know, Claire Luce particularly wanted the history of the area built up, and that money that she left was not only the history of moving the county seat from Harney to Burns, but was the whole area of history. So her intent was in that.

So I've really tried to get as comprehensive collection of Eastern Oregon history. Of course I've sent a lot of it over to the Library already.

Now that's enough of that, I've got something else I want to tell you about. This is recently about, when we were going through stuff, I found an excerpt that Gwendolyn Hayden got from Yale, of the thesis that a girl that came out here and studied the Indians from 1935 to 1938, their culture, Paiute culture. And she and another girl came the first year. She was, I believe, from ... and the other girl was up in Vermont. I can't think of the girl's ... Then the second year she came out she was married, and her husband was named John Whiting, he lived on Martha's Vineyard. And while she was working here, he went on to the South Pacific, and New Guinea, and went up the Sepik River, in New Guinea, and doing cultural research in there to get his thesis.

Well anyway she filed her thesis, and Gwendolyn wrote and got just a part of it, and I recently found that here. And I think the library has the whole thesis, but I'm not sure.

PAULINE: Well do you remember what her name was?

GEORGE: Beatrice Blyth, B L Y T H Whiting.

PAULINE: And the thesis on Paiute Indians.

GEORGE: Yes. Well I'll be glad to give you this that I have, and you can take it over. But I want to keep it for another week or two. Because it --- it tells a lot of their, well about their witch doctors, and how they get their power, and different ones. And she names them, they name them all. And a lot of the Indians that I used to know, and didn't have any idea that individually they had, they were ---

Well old Captain Louie was a doctor, and there was Jack, a fellow with the last name Jack, and his wife. He was supposed to have made Nellie Sam go blind just as she walked in front of him

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one time. And all sorts of these beliefs.

But it speaks about Nepa (sp.?) as a 16 years old girls in this. Well do you know Nepa Kennedy?

PAULINE: Yeah.

GEORGE: And she went by the name of Shakespeare then. And they think it was originally, was Sixspeare rather than Shakespeare. Well anyway she tells, become her father, had been what they call a blood letter. The Indians used to practice puncturing an artery or vein for certain types of diseases to, you know, reduce blood pressure or fever, or whatever they happened to have. They did poultice things, and different things.

But, and so she had a dream that she should do this. So she did it for a few friends, and it became known that she was able to do this. Well then her mother had a dream, and she dreamed that she saw Nepa with a 50-cent piece in her hand. So she was supposed to charge for it every time, not to do it without charge. Because if you did anything that you were, or didn't follow the ritual that you were given in your dream, then you were liable to become sick yourself, and waste away. And so every time after that she was supposed to charge for any bloodletting she did.

I plan to have Nepa here next week sometime, she's going to be down at Jessie Williams Thursday, and I'll get a hold of her then, and have her come help clean the house up a little bit. She's, I'm going to give it to her and let her read this. Because she, I don't think she's ever seen it. Because, of course those people I wrote up there, Bea Whiting, wrote it after she left here, and I don't think they ---

PAULINE: Ever saw it.

GEORGE: --- ever saw it again.

PAULINE: I've done an interview with Marion Louie, and Marcus Haines has done an interview with her.

GEORGE: With her.

PAULINE: And I'm in the process of typing that right now.

GEORGE: Are you?

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PAULINE: Yeah. She told ... the same thing. And I haven't got to Marcus' yet, but ---

GEORGE: Well one of the things that told in here that, do you know Edna, Jasper Jim and Edna?

PAULINE: Yeah.

GEORGE: Well Jasper's mother was Dot Jim; she lives over in Bend right now with one of her granddaughters, or two of them, and takes care of their children while they work. And she comes back, I went, well when I went to church Sunday, I mean Easter, why Dot was there and her oldest girl Cynthia.

But anyway this thing in there told that Dot's mother's brother had a, he was immune to bullets. And it told how you could become immune to bullets or to arrows. You know where Castle Rock is up --- Well you went up there and you bathed in the stream before you went up on, climbed up on top of the rock, laid out there overnight. And no matter what frightened you, or anything else, this was part of the ritual. You had to sleep up there overnight, and have a dream. And the dream told you what you, you know, everything was according to dreams. They worshipped the sun, really, was their main source of their spiritual power, sun and moon. And when you died you went up, climbed up the Milky Way, or your spirit did. And that's what their belief was.

Well anyway this Dot Jim's uncle, her mother's brother, had this bullet that made him immune to bullets. Nobody could shoot him in other words. And then he lost it, you know, it was just a small bullet, evidently a 22 or something like that. And he lost it, so he went back to his, to the witch doctor or whatever ... and told him to --- well I think maybe it was Captain Louie, and told him to whittle one just like it out of wood, which he did. So he had this wooden one, and that did the same as the, you know --- And then one time he was going to go to Fort Bidwell, and so he hid this wooden bullet while he went to, got to Bidwell, in a rock, in some rocks. And while he was gone the City, says the City of Burns blasted these rocks to get building material for a swimming pool. Well now I can't figure out where that could have been, unless they considered the rocking they did around the dam at the old mill dam, at the Grist Mill up there across from the Indian Village. Because they put a rock facing along, before the millrace took off. And that's the only

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place that I can figure that they ever did any blasting.

And that was the swimming pool at the, before we ever --- except down here on the river, where it was sandy, or down ... the corner where Hinshaw and Mrs. Corbett lives, that was a good swimming hole, too. But that's the only place that I could figure out.

PAULINE: Yeah, that sounds reasonable to assume.

GEORGE: Yeah. Well anyway, they blasted the rocks where his wooden bullet was, and he lost his bullet power ever after that. And that's just how strong their belief in these things are. But it's a real interesting ---

PAULINE: Oh, that's --- and it comes really at an opportune time, because ... Because she's just real willing to talk ...

GEORGE: Well, I knew she was. Well it speaks of Captain Louie and Jim Louie too, her husband Jim. And so it tells about old Jenny who was Captain Louie's wife. And it tells even about when you have bad power, how it maybe carried on. Said the Capps daughter Sadie, may even have that power. You remember Sadie?

PAULINE: Yeah.

GEORGE: She had bad power all right. She ---

PAULINE: She had some kind of power all right.

GEORGE: She just didn't make it home one night. They found her; I think it was down by the railroad tracks. She died. A lot of the old names I'd forgotten all about. It shows the Indian word for certain things. "... " and "... " and it's just a phonetic spelling I suppose. But it gives a lot of that in there. And so as soon as I let the girls see it, why then I'll let you have this.

PAULINE: Okay.

GEORGE: You can leave it permanently at the Library after that. I rather think that they may have the whole thesis of Mrs. Whitings, of Bea Whitings.

PAULINE: I'll go over when I leave, I'll go right over there and check.

GEORGE: Well, that's about the size of it, Pauline. But those are some ideas that I had along those lines.

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PAULINE: Well those are ---

GEORGE: And I'll be glad to let you have this of my sister's, and especially if you can get it typed up.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well I'll be tickled to death to type it.

GEORGE: Well, it's just laying here, and it's in the --- Frannie, do you know where that brown envelope that I found the picture of Barnes is in? Well it's back there in the closet somewhere else. It was in that envelope; just about like that thesis was in. I think its part of the history that is worth recording. And I don't know whether --- I know you can get other people that will help you. I imagine Wally [Welcome] could help you, or Clarence Young could help you.

... (Unrelated conversation)

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