

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #388 - Sides A/B/C/D/E

Subject: Paul Howard

Date: May 17, 1989

Place: Howard Home - Cottage Grove, Oregon

Interviewer: Russ Jorgensen

RUSS JORGENSEN: Howard, Russ Jorgensen.

PAUL HOWARD: Russ, glad to know you.

RUSS: Same here. I hear it's your birthday today.

PAUL: Yeah, 79 today.

RUSS: 79 today.

PAUL: Yeah, May 17th, 1910, I was born.

RUSS: Okay.

PAUL: Born in Oklahoma, Vian, Oklahoma.

RUSS: Where were your folks from?

PAUL: Well my Grandfather Howard was from, was born in Tennessee, John Pierce Howard. And my father was born in Columbus County, Tennessee. And they moved to Macon, Georgia, and they had another son born there, and they named him Macon Howard. And then he --- I don't know just what year it was, but they migrated to, into Texas, and settled around Corsicana, close to Dallas, Texas. And he was a minister, and he; during his lifetime he built twelve churches. He started thirteen churches there in that area, and lived out his life there in Texas.

RUSS: Uh huh. Where did his folks come from?

PAUL: Well originally his, his ancestry came from Great Britain, from England, his father

and mother both. And that would be --- I think his great, or his great-great grandfather came from there. And they settled in New York, and then they migrated down farther south into, or farther into the central states, Tennessee and Georgia. A lot of them settled in Georgia. And ---

RUSS: Well that must be why they moved down there then from Tennessee. They just went down by their relatives some.

PAUL: Yeah, I think that probably, yeah, happened that way. And then they, he finally liked Corsicana, Texas. And his, he married, he lost Grandmother Howard, and then he remarried after Macon was born. And he didn't marry though until he was in Texas, he married a Texas gal there. And her, right now I can't think of her name. But --- and then my mother, my dad and mother were married, she was born in Texas, my mother was. And they were married when my father was about 20 years old.

And her father and mother, I know very little about their ancestry except that Grandfather Thrailkill was Irish and English, and my Grandmother was Scottish.

RUSS: Well they all hung together from Britain. (Laughter)

PAUL: Yes, most of them were from that area, over in Britain. And then we, my dad was, studied to be a minister. He was also working at a bank at that time. He was, he did all the corresponding for the bank. And then he wanted to work out, get out and see the world. And he studied to be --- and got a job on the, with the railroad. And he was a brakeman, and fireman, and then he worked up to be an engineer. And he pulled cotton trains, the first one he ever pulled. And then he graduated on up to; gradually he was pulling a passenger train.

And they had a large family; there was 13 in the family all together. And he, then they lost four boys. And he wanted to move to a different area. They had ---

RUSS: What did they die from?

PAUL: I think diphtheria, and they had malaria down in that country at that time too, quite a bit of it. And the water source was poor, and shallow wells.

And then they moved to Oklahoma, and that's where I was born, in Vian, Oklahoma, Eastern Oklahoma. East of Oklahoma City.

And then they moved back to Texas for a short time. And then my mother's sister had married a man in Montana, and they had asked, wanted the folks to come up there. So they, my dad and my

--- his father-in-law, William Davis Thrailkill went up there, and Dad filed on a homestead. Came back and got his family and they went up, he got a pass for his family on the railroad up to Great Falls, Montana. From there they went by wagon out to the Harwood Ranch. That's my mother's sister, married a Thomas Harwood.

RUSS: Uh huh. Oh say, do you remember anything of Texas when you were a little boy?

PAUL: The only thing I can remember of Texas, I was 4 years old, or not quite 4, my Grandfather Thrailkill had a reddish beard and it grew quite long. And in the mornings he'd go out and sit on the, in the sun on the porch, early morning, and he'd comb it after he had washed. And I was a little kid, and I wanted to comb it for him. I remember getting up on his lap, and then if I pulled his beard why he'd give me a swat, you know, on the rear, "And get out of here, you're too rough, I don't want you around." (Laughter) But that's the only thing that I can remember. Except that I saw him out there --- he bought and sold mules, and he'd go to Missouri and buy a, oh, 20 or 30 mules and trail them into Texas. And he'd break them and, you know, two wagons and drive them. He owned a livery stable, you know. And he rented out buggies and saddle horses, and any kind of a rig you wanted.

And then my Grandfather Howard, I remember riding behind him, he'd go to different communities and preach a sermon, you know, every, different areas ---

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: --- before he ever got a church. And I remember he lifted me up on the back of his horse, great, it was a big brown horse. And I'd hang onto him, he showed me how to hang onto the strings on his saddle, you know. And he'd tell me, you want to hang onto, I'd try to hang onto him, and he said, "No, hang onto to those strings, because if I get bucked off," he says, "you'll be able to ride him," he says. (Laughter) So that's the only thing that I can remember.

I remember riding in a buggy and trotting down the road with my mother, and I don't know who was driving, I can't recall. But it was probably my grandfather. And, but I can remember riding on the train going up, all the way up to the northern part of Montana, up near, north of Cut Bank.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: We were just 7 miles from the Canadian line. And my cousins lived about 4 miles from there.

RUSS: Oh, you went from the bottom to the top.

PAUL: Really did. And it was from hot to cold, I'll tell you. The summers were nice; the springs were beautiful up there, in the summer. When we left there I really --- I was homesick for several years.

RUSS: Yeah, I bet.

PAUL: I just knew I was going to go back there and live someday, but I've only been back twice since. We, my dad tried to plow up some of that ... after he homesteaded. And we got part of it fenced; we fenced in about 80 acres. He had, I think he and mother got 280

acres. And the sod was oh, 7 to 10 inches thick, you know, just grass. And we'd hook onto a piece 20 feet long, and we built a chicken, sod chicken house out of it.

RUSS: (Laughter)

PAUL: And we'd drag those strips of sod, just tie on one end of it, and it was that tough, and you could just drag it, you know, anywhere. And then we'd role it up on little poles, you know, and planks and stuff. Sided up, we built that chicken house up about 6 feet high, and then put a --- to start with we built a, put a straw roof on it, poles, and then some wire and then blew straw on top of it.

RUSS: What blue straw?

PAUL: Well, you know, you planted some grain just as quick as you could, and then we harvest it, why we had straw stacks then. But he'd blow that straw over there on back of the chicken house and up on the roof, you know, and make a roof out of the straw, out of the wheat straw. And then he started, he'd grow flax.

And he bought a, he didn't build a house, there was a homesteader and built a nice house on the adjoining property, and a big sheep outfit bought it though after he started out, after the homesteader gave it up.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And Dad bought the house fairly reasonable from him. And they skidded it over there on skid poles. It was a two-story, big house. And it took them two weeks to bring it about a mile.

RUSS: I would guess.

PAUL: And, on the snow.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And it --- I'll tell you in the wintertime it wasn't insulated, and we'd wake up in the

morning and it would be frost up in the corners, up in the ceiling and around. It was a real cold winter.

RUSS: Oh, I'm sure of it.

PAUL: And the --- finally we had three good years, and then we had three years of drought. And we, nobody, the homesteaders were starting to migrate out of there, give up their place. And my dad decided he'd better go back to work on the railroad then.

RUSS: What year was that?

PAUL: That was in about 1919 that we, he had to go back to working on the, he got a job with the Great Northern Railroad.

RUSS: Oh yeah.

PAUL: And then they, the family stayed on the ranch that first year, through 19---

RUSS: How many was in the family then?

PAUL: There was, they had lost four boys, and then we lost one girl. They lost one daughter, Stella. And that was --- so that would be nine, there were nine children left then.

RUSS: Nine left.

PAUL: Uh huh. And of course Jack was, Mary was the oldest, John was the next, and then Ruth, and of course then there was the other four boys they lost, and their names were Davis, and Ralph, and then the twins, Jake D. and W. Dean. And then later on after there was Lucille, and then myself, and then Hazel, and then Stella the one that died later on, she was 8 years old. And then they had, then there was Billie and Jim. Hazel --- no, Billie and Jim after Stella.

And anyway the railroad, he went, he worked as an engineer for about six months and he became ill. And so he didn't feel like he could go back on the road, and they put

him in a depot agent for a while. And then after that he wanted back out on the road, and they give him the, put him in as superintendent of the coal chutes. They'd buy the coal and keep the coal chutes up, and the water tanks, and see that everything was working.

RUSS: How did he get sick?

PAUL: Pardon me?

RUSS: How did he get sick, where did he get sick, doing what?

PAUL: He was engineering at the time, and that's when he became ill and had ---

RUSS: Notice that wind blow a little.

PAUL: Well the coal smoke and everything blowing back in those cabs, and really eventually he had to have one lung, he lost one lung. But the doctor told him he'd have to get out of that cold country and go to a warmer climate.

But he, after he, they put him in as a coal buyer, why he became ill again, and that's when the doctor told him that he'd have to leave and go to a warmer climate or he wouldn't make it through another winter. And we didn't have --- we starved out on the ranch, really. And there were a few old, a few cars, and you know the big stockmen, and the big sheep men, and cattlemen had a few old big cars in those days. The Hupmobile and the Cadillac, and the Lincoln, and there are a lot of those old cars, I can't recall their names now. But very few, there was only about, probably 5% up there in that area had cars at that time.

So we had wagons and lots of horses. So we decided we was just going to travel and stay out in the open. And the doctor that treated --- tuberculosis in the other lung, or maybe lose it, lose his life. So we traveled --- and my brother-in-law, my oldest sister had married a man by the name of Winn Adamson, Winifred Adamson. His middle name was Rockford. And he was a rancher and farmer, and he built buckaroo style wagons, like the

old chuck wagons.

RUSS: Yeah, yeah.

PAUL: He used in the roundups in those days. And we had tents, our set-up, with big 10 x 12 tents. And they sewed an extra two feet on the bottom of it, and elevated the roof of the tent. And then we'd set up, set about twelve feet back of the buckaroo wagons, and then run a ridge pole over to the top of the chuck --- there was a grub box on the back of the wagon, and put a fly over that. And, you know, rain or shine why you had a little protection.

... (Pause in tape)

PAUL: Then our, of course they hobbled the horses, put a bell on them, and most of the horses got within four feet of the --- we'd gone about 12 miles that day. And some of them were halfway back home when we overtook them the next morning.

RUSS: (Laughter) ...

PAUL: We picketed one horse.

RUSS: Why did they go back home?

PAUL: Oh, horses will do that. They want to go back to where they, the old range, you know. Yeah, you can take a horse halfway across the state, and you turn him loose, and he'll head back in that direction.

RUSS: Well I'll be darned.

PAUL: Yeah, he tried to go back to his old range. Anyway, we didn't make too much progress that day, but we finally got a going, and we had, we carried a little grain with us, and very little hay. We always just fed them just a couple of, oh maybe a quarter grain each, everyday. And then we --- well maybe at night too, trying to keep them around. We camped in the lanes, and in those days you could travel for miles and never, just a

winding road, you know, dirt road.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: That was in 1921, see.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: So we crossed Montana, down into --- and went into Southern Idaho. And down to Twin Falls, and American Falls, and then we headed back up towards Central Idaho. And we hit every Chautauqua and circus, and there were traveling circuses, you know. The Chautauqua, they were quite popular in those days.

RUSS: What is a Chautauqua?

PAUL: Pardon?

RUSS: What is it?

PAUL: Oh they have programs of all kinds, entertainment. They have speakers, and have, and its just entertainment of everything.

RUSS: Just entertainment.

PAUL: Musicians, and acrobats.

RUSS: Okay.

PAUL: They have, sometimes they'll stay three or four days in one area, in one town.

RUSS: Uh huh.

PAUL: And they'll have church services, they have speakers of all kinds, politicians.

RUSS: Where did they get the name Chautauqua?

PAUL: I have no idea. I never have found out.

RUSS: Well maybe they got it from a ... Indians back in Pennsylvania.

PAUL: Possibly, it sounds like that.

RUSS: Yeah, sounds like it.

PAUL: Could be an Indian name. Well when we got to King Hill, Idaho, late summer, well it was almost school time, almost the first of September.

RUSS: That was the first three months?

PAUL: Yes, that was in the first three months, we went that distance. And there was a reclamation job going there and my dad wasn't able to work, but he could put his horses -- - they wanted horses and men. And my brother and brother-in-law and older sister and, they of course, they had their wagon and they were still with us.

When we left Montana though, I'll go back --- there were five families all together left Montana. We were in the same, just like a wagon train for a while.

RUSS: Right, right.

PAUL: But they, gradually they, maybe one of them would find a job they wanted and had to stop and work, and they dropped out, or they found a place maybe they wanted to live.

But they, I was just 11 years old and, you know, everything was new and I didn't think much about it. Of course I knew they dropped out of the caravan. But they, we got to King Hill, and of course they put all of us kids in school. And my dad wasn't able really to do a lot of work, but he put his horses to work. And then we were, I was helping him haul hay. We had a corral down in the bottom of the canyon close to the Snake River, and the corrals, and we kept our horses.

And we'd, they had three teams, three four-horse teams working on the job, on this reclamation, pulling fresnos. In those days they had no tractors like they do now, bulldozers or anything.

RUSS: What's a fresno?

PAUL: Well it's a dirt-moving device. It's just like a big scoop.

RUSS: Oh, okay.

PAUL: And it has, they're about seven feet wide, a four-horse fresno is. Two-horse is about four feet wide. And it's, they pull four or five hundred pounds of dirt, you know. And the four-horse fresno will pull probably more than that, five or six hundred pounds of dirt along.

RUSS: Yeah, yeah.

PAUL: And they'll pull that all day long. They --- it has a long, what we call a Johnson bar on the back of it. And that's what you hang onto to load the fresno. And then all you can do is just tip it up, the blade will catch in the ground and that will dump it. And then it goes up on two sled runners, that throws the whole thing up out of the ground. And then you go back empty, and where you're picking your dirt up.

RUSS: What were you making?

PAUL: The canal around the edge of the Chalky Hills there in, over there above, around King Hill. They'd lose 50% of the water in a mile and a half there out of the canal.

RUSS: Geeze.

PAUL: And they had to cement it, and line the canal.

RUSS: Oh, okay.

PAUL: And they had a crew of men that ran to the --- and of course part of the, they could plow in some areas there; they could plow the banks farther down on the edge of it if they could. And then they had a crew of men that would grub hoe, and shovel, and rake the dirt down and shape the ditch, pull it down into the bottom of the ditch. And then we built ramps, and then we'd pull all that loose dirt out. And then the crew would shape it up the way they wanted it. And then the cement crew would come along and mix the cement and pour it. And then we'd have to pull this dirt, a lot of it back up, and where they could

shovel it back in and cover the cement up. It was wintertime see; we didn't start in there until September and October. And then we started digging some crops.

RUSS: That was your dad's horse's work on there?

PAUL: Yes, uh huh. And he would go along, and, some days and help us; we'd haul hay on Sundays. We worked six days a week, and we worked nine hours through September and October. And then after that the days were shorter and we'd work from daylight to dark.

RUSS: And how old were you?

PAUL: I was 11 years old. And I was going to school at that time. But in December we was hauling a load of hay, and we was hauling down this little old grade down into the corrals, down in the bottom of this canyon. And a rock rolled down off of the embankment, it was a --- we'd plowed out the hillside to make a road down.

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: And a rock come rolling down there and hit this horse in the flank and he jumped, and almost straddled the tongue and he pushed the tongue way over, caused the wagon to slide off of the

--- my dad was holding it down into the bank as much as he could to kind of hold, make a break, you know, pull into the dirt softer and make the ramp. And then he would --- anyway the wagon kind of slid down; there was a skiff of snow on the ground. This was the 5th day of December, or about the 1st day of December. And when the wagon slid off into those ruts, it had been muddy for awhile, and then why it rocked over and tipped and went over an embankment about six or seven feet high. And the right hand side of the hayrack, corner of the hayrack --- threw my dad out. He hung onto the lines and the rack caught his coat and smashed his foot, just broke the heel bone and the ankle, and the

instep. Just smashed his foot almost flat. And of course he let loose of the horses and they ran with the tongue and the front wheels of the wagon down to the corral.

Well it threw me out; I slid off with the hay. And of course I ran over and I helped Dad get his, got his foot out from underneath the edge of that rack. And he was just laying there groaning, and almost crying, he was in such pain. And then I ran down and tied the horses to the corral so they wouldn't, you know, I didn't want them to ---

RUSS: To run away.

PAUL: --- go any farther.

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: Then I ran up and got my mother. She came down and we notified --- I got my saddle horse and galloped up to the camp where a lot of the fellows were camped. And they come down and helped us get him in the buggy. And then they had to take him to Gooding, Idaho, the Company sent him down to Gooding, Idaho.

RUSS: How far was that?

PAUL: Well Gooding was, I don't know, something like 30; I've forgotten exactly, about 30 miles or such, from King Hill. And he was there all winter, just about. He was there about --- they had to break his bone over, after they set it the first time, and put the cast on. And then they had, they x-rayed it, and they had to take the cast off and break one of the bones over and reset it. And I think they had to put on about four different casts, possibly five, I've forgotten.

I was --- in the meantime we had two men driving the other two teams, two-horse, four-horse fresnos. And I, we couldn't get a driver for the other team. Dad had tried to drive them for a while. And then we had another man that drove part-time. And finally I, stock went up, and I told mother I wanted to drive that team. And I got on my horse and

galloped over there and, to the job, and Mr. Brown was his name, was the superintendent. And I told him my dad had broken his foot and I wanted to drive the team, he wasn't able to drive. And he says, "Well you know kid," he said, "you got to be 14 years old to work on this job." And he said, "You have to work from daylight to dark this time of year." And he says, "You have to go to school, don't you?" And I said, "I've been in school, yes sir." And he said, "Well," he said, "you can apply for the job," but he says, "I won't guarantee you'll get it." And, but they were wanting all the men they could get and trying to hurry this job up before, it was going to take them all winter, you know, to do the job.

And he let me, he handed me a little slip of paper and he said, "Write your name and address, and your mother and dad's name on there," and he said, "we'll see what we can do." And he said, "You know you'll have to be on the job," he says, "at daylight this time of year." It was the 5th day of December.

And so I got on my horse and I galloped back --- well here I'll tell you the rest --- I had to write my age down. And I wrote down the one, and I was quite awhile, I took oh, several minutes and I'd look at him, and then he was over there working at kind of a desk he had on the other side, far side of the little shack that was his office, you know. And finally I wrote the 1 down, and then I wrote a real dim 4. I was 11 years old, and wouldn't be 12 until next May.

But I wanted that job, and so he come over after bit and he said, "You know kid, you're going to have to, you're going to have to get your lessons if you're in school." And then he said, "You're going to have to get up early and get your team on the job," he says, "right at daylight." He says, "The days are short." And I said, "Yes sir, I'll have them after ---" I got on my horse and I really run him all the way back and told my mother that I, he was going to let me go to work.

And so we had to go over, and we talked to the teacher, and she said, "Well this is kind of unusual," but she said, "if you'll get your lessons in the evenings, and you let your mother, when she comes after the children, bring your lessons over here." See my mother was driving the other kids back and forth to school at that time in the buggy.

RUSS: How many?

PAUL: Well there was Hazel and Lucille, and I, and the two little girls. Billie and Jim were too young to go to school yet. And this was after Stella had died in Montana, you know. And so there was just two of them she had to haul back and forth. I was --- And so the teacher said, "You'll have to be in school the last two weeks or you won't be able to graduate." You had to be right here in school and take your tests.

RUSS: Oh.

PAUL: And so I went to work up there driving a four-horse fresno. And I was, I had to get up in the morning by the lantern light and catch these horses. I had, the drivers of the other two teams, they wouldn't harness them, but they'd unharness them in the evening. And then in the morning I had to harness all twelve horses. I had to catch them and feed them their grain and harness them up, have them ready to go right at daylight, by lantern light. Eat my breakfast and grab my lunch, and drive my team up on the job.

RUSS: And you run the four-horse team too?

PAUL: Yeah, I drove --- well I could drive horses when I --- I'd drive four horses harrowing and stuff when I was on the ranch when I was about 8 years old.

RUSS: Whew!

PAUL: I could handle horses, you know, you could drive ---

RUSS: Yeah, you could do it.

PAUL: Kids in those days worked, every family ---

RUSS: You learned how.

PAUL: Kids learned to do things pretty young in those days. Took the whole family, you know, to make a living, really.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And I rode horses when I was, shortly after I --- well I roped my first horse when I was 7, a little yearling. And all he did was sheep jump, you know, and run. My brother-in-law hazed him around in the corral there. And then we opened the gate and that little buckskin horse just took off running, and Winn was right beside me, you know, in case he started bucking, why he would have caught him. But that's how it started.

Oh kids, you know, just like these kids nowadays, you know, want to ride one of these three wheelers, or motorcycles or some-thing.

RUSS: Sure.

PAUL: When they're 5 years old. Start out with a bicycle. But we worked there all through the winter. And I don't believe I missed a day except the two weeks in the spring of the year, that was along in May, about the middle of May I think I had to be in school. And we got out of school in; I don't know, oh sometime the first of June, the first week of June sometime.

And then I went back on the job; I was the last team to pull off the job. And that was to --- what we did, after that cement was covered up, we had to, they had to shovel and cover this cement to keep it from freezing so hard. And then they had to rake that down, and then we had to haul that dirt back out again. We had to build ramps and haul it back out. And I was the last team off the job. I worked there probably, I can't recall exactly, every, four or five days, just cleaning out the --- gradually they had to get out as much dirt out as they could, you know. And then I'd have to pull the ramps out. And that

was pretty hard for the horses to walk up that cement. But the banks sloped quite a bit, and the horses --- we didn't have them shod, you know.

RUSS: Yeah, so they didn't slip ...

PAUL: They could, their feet could hang onto that cement pretty good. And we, of course we always left a little dirt, there was a little dirt on that to help, you know, keep it, so it would give them footing.

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: And then we, the folks decided that we was going on, Dad had originally heard about Rogue River Valley and he just, that was where he was going to go, and that was here in Oregon. Well we got, we came on up from King Hill on up toward Ontario, Oregon. After we got to, almost up to a little town there south of Ontario, a rider caught up with us and they said there was a farmer's ditch in Emmett, Idaho and they needed, they had 70 men down there working and they needed horses, and they needed cooks. And of course we hated to go back, we'd just got off of the job. But my brother-in-law and, we all turned around and went back to Emmett. And it was along in July and the apricots were just starting to ripen a little bit. And we, the farmer's ditch had washed two hundred feet of that ditch bank out. It was quite a large canal.

RUSS: Uh huh.

PAUL: And it washed out orchards and carried fruit trees, and debris, and everything down into the valley and covered a lot of alfalfa fields with silt. It was surely a mess, looked terrible, you know, it was terrible because it washed out the gullies there fifty feet deep right below the canal.

RUSS: What year was that?

PAUL: That was in 1922 then.

RUSS: '22.

PAUL: And so we turned around, we went back. And they set up a, there was an old ranch house right up close to the canal, underneath the canal, and close to this break. And it was vacant, and there was a lot of shade trees there. It had been a ranch at one time, way out there on the edge of the side hill. And we set up, they had cleaned up, and of course the men had just been cooking for themselves. They were working, they'd put up lights and they were working day and night, 24 hours a day. And of course we went to work and fixed up a lot of, got another cook stove, we had two big ranges, and set up a kind of a rock place where we could have a fire and put old axles across it, and put our tubs on that to wash dishes. And my mother was head cook, and my brother-in-law was the meat cook. And my sister, Mary, the oldest sister was the pastry cook. And of course Jack, my oldest brother, had gone on the fall before, he went up to pick apples, or harvest grain up in the, into Washington.

RUSS: Uh huh.

PAUL: And so then my sister waited on table, and I washed dishes, I was the dishwasher. And I had to cut all the wood for both of the kitchen stoves inside, and for heating my water out there to wash the dishes. And I had three tubs of water. I had one that I'd keep soap in, and wash the dishes real quick, throw them in the next tub and rinse them off, and then into the real boiling water on the last one, knives and forks and everything. I had to wash everything with a brush, you know, to get the egg off from them.

RUSS: Yeah, sure.

PAUL: Then I, they put up plank on a, some sawhorses and threw bed sheets over that, white sheets. And then I had a pile of one hundred pound flour sacks. We'd throw the dishes into these, and shake them up, and then lay them out on the table, and the knives

and forks the same way, and shake part of the water out of them and dry them. And then my sister would come and pick them up and set the tables. They had sawhorses and planks on them for tables. And a lot of guys just take, dish up their food and sit out in the shade anyplace they could find, sit down, where they could eat. And there was 70 or 80 men before we finished the job working there. And they were working around the clock. Of course they had shifts there.

RUSS: Yeah, yeah.

PAUL: But we were cooking meals all night. We cooked steady, just my family, for six days and nights before they got a relief crew. And they got three guys from Boise, out of Boise, and they came out. We were just exhausted. And they came out, and I think I slept about 14 hours that first, first, where we got to bed.

Talk about --- well anyway we finished the job. And what they did, they had wheel scrapers, but they had to haul their clay in from quite a little distance.

RUSS: Okay, what is a wheel scraper?

PAUL: A wheel scraper is one of these big dirt scrapers like you see on; it will scoop, like a big scoop.

RUSS: Oh okay, okay, yeah.

PAUL: And you can pull the handle down. It has a long handle on it just like a fresno.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: About six feet long. And you load it, and it will go along on wheels, but you gauge it, you know. Of course they plow this dirt, and soil, first. And then you pull that blade down, why it hits the soil, and then as you pull it down it goes a little deeper and goes along until you load it. And then you push the handle clear down, and that way that load of dirt in the scraper, it lifts it up off of the ground just barely so it clears the ground about

four inches. And then you carry that dirt then quite a distance without losing it. And then you dump it and go back and get another load. It's on wheels, just like a wagon, small wagon wheels. And they look like an awkward looking thing, but they, they were just model dirt movers in those days.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And of course they also had big horse graders, but they couldn't move dirt any distance in those days. They did grade roads with it.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: But we had, oh they had, it looked --- it was really a busy place. They had to haul that --- and what they did they let enough water in after the water was shut off. It took them quite awhile to let that water drain out.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And then they'd mud that, they let enough water in to where they, mud this clay, and pack it down. They had a big drag, they had an old John Deere motor, engine, and it had a clutch on it, and you could reverse it. And it had a cable that went from here to a pulley over there about three hundred yards. And it had a float tied onto this cable, station ... And then the float would drag over to that end, then you'd reverse the motor and run the cable back the other way, and it would drive you, pull back, and you kept muddying that clay in, and working it back and forth, because they had to turn the water in on it on account of the crops, see.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: The farmers were crying for water.

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: And that way, that they mudded that in, it would hold water and not start leaking

and wash out again. And that's the reason they had to do that. And my dad run that, because he couldn't walk and drive a scraper after he had his leg broke, you know, earlier in December.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: So we were there, fourteen, fifteen days. We left on the fifteenth day, the job was finished. And we pulled out and came on up to Ontario. We stopped there and picked, and my mother canned a little fruit. And then we decided, my brother-in-law wanted to go up and ride in the Pendleton Roundup. He had ridden, you know, a lot and broke horses all his life. So we went from Ontario up to Baker, Oregon, and then right on up to Pendleton. And we were up there all through the five days of the celebration. We camped out near the river there at Pendleton, and hobbled our horses right out on the ---

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PAUL: Of course us kids kind of had to keep our eye on them, and we were around there quite a bit. Tie some of them up, you know, and then they'd hang around there and feed them a little grain. And most of us would ride, we'd go in and ride into the rodeo and we got in free that way, see, especially us kids.

RUSS: Uh huh.

PAUL: And our brother-in-law rode in the rodeo. That was the year that Yakima Kinook (sp.?) was the rodeo champ. He won the big money that year.

RUSS: Uh huh. How much did he win?

PAUL: I don't recall, but it was quite a purse. Well it wasn't like today's purse, of course, but it was probably several hundred dollars. Now then, you know, it's way up in the thousands.

RUSS: Oh yeah.

PAUL: But, and they had chuck wagon races. The Indians put on a big show. They had a regular Indian camp there. They paid them to come in and have this, you know, so people would ---

RUSS: Well sure.

PAUL: Well in those days people come from all over to the Pendleton Roundup. Even tourists, and some, even foreign countries. Pendleton Roundup was noted for ---

RUSS: Well it still is.

PAUL: Yeah, it is still one of the most popular rodeos in the country. We, as soon as the rodeo was over we'd go down and went to, down to Mount Vernon, and then to John Day. And then in Canyon City, which is right near John Day, was having a big 62 Celebration. We stopped there at that celebration. Of course that was in September. The rodeo in Pendleton, see us kids should have been in school, but we were rodeoing.

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: But anyway, along about the middle we got, Dad read one of the John Day papers and they were wanting to let a, they were letting a contract in Burns, Oregon, they wanted the streets of Burns graveled. They had never been graveled, just old ruddy, dirt roads, you know.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And we, my dad says, "Well let's go on to Burns and I'll put these horses to work over there." So we, after the 62 Celebration, we stayed there three days. And while we were there, we had our camp; we camped down near the stream. And we set our tent up late one evening, almost dark. And some fellows drove down there in a car, and we were still setting up camp, and here they come and they turned, they had their headlights

turned on right towards our camp and everything. Dad thought it was somebody coming to run us off of there or something.

They come down there, looking around, walking all around. And pretty soon Dad said, "What do you fellows want down here?" And they says, "Well we, we're just looking," he says, "we've lost something down here," he says, "we're looking for it." He says --- and pretty soon why they found the place and it was right under the tent ropes, on one of the tents we'd set up. And they dug around there, and they dug up four or five bottles of Canadian whiskey.

RUSS: (Laughter)

PAUL: They said, "Well we're sure glad you didn't run a wagon on top of this stuff." And they said, "Put ... to be friendly," he said, "we'll, we're going to offer you a drink." And so Winn and Dad both took a drink of whiskey. Start the celebration! And so we got to Burns and we found a house.

RUSS: How did that liquor come, he didn't take too much?

PAUL: I didn't take any, no.

RUSS: Your folks didn't take too much?

PAUL: No, no, my dad just took a ---

RUSS: Swiffle.

PAUL: Yeah, he just --- well I'll tell you, after there, when he had pneumonia the last time, I didn't tell you about that, there in White Fish. This fellow brought a bottle of whiskey up to Dad, and he said, told mother to heat that in a little water on the stove, make it real strong, and heat it, and get as much of that down him as you can.

RUSS: Yeah, you did mention that.

PAUL: Did I?

RUSS: Well yeah, that worked pretty good.

PAUL: Oh yeah. Anyway, then we came to Burns and rented a house and found pasture for our horses. And Dad bid on this graveling job, to gravel the streets of Burns, and he got it. And so my brother-in-law and my brother had come back then, and then a friend of ours, and they fixed, they had to buy 2 x, or 4 x 4's, and they --- the boxes for this gravel, haul gravel on wagons.

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: It would just --- oh probably, well the 2 x, or 4 x 4's, and they'd cover the whole bolster, you know, on a wagon, which is about 40 inches wide.

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: And then they had sideboards. In those days you could get 14-inch planks. Big 2 inch, 2 x 14's, and as long as we wanted. And they would be fastened to the bolsters, and then these 4 x 4's they would whittle them off round to where you could get your hand in there, and then you'd raise one up in the center when you'd go to empty your gravel. Raise it up, and the gravel would start through, and then you'd raise another one and some more would go through. And then you'd go to the front end and raise that, and that's the way you dumped it.

RUSS: Well I'll be.

PAUL: And then you'd scatter it with a fresno, and scraper, or mostly a fresno. And that's the way the streets of Burns were graveled the first time. They were ruddy and muddy, you know, and old board sidewalks. I think there was eleven saloons and card houses there, gambling houses.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: They had gambling, you know, they had gambling going on. But it was prohibition

days, but they had drinks they'd serve in the back, you know, old moonshine.

RUSS: Talking about a drink, how would you like a cup of tea?

PAUL: Sounds all right.

... (Pause in tape)

PAUL: There is something I didn't tell you about, earlier on the reclamation job. And I --- the, there was a fellow that pulled the big breaker plow, you know, plow it up. Some of that ground would freeze in the winter. This is in December when I started to work there. And that ground, you know, freezes quite a lot there in Idaho. And they had to plow a lot of that ground, and of course they had to blast in places. And to get dirt to cover it, you know, when they were covering it up.

And, but one of his horses got the colic and laid down and died one night. And the field boss, Mr. Brown now was the main superintendent on the job. But anyway the other foreman, dirt foreman, came down and he said, "Suppose your team could pull that plow with your four-head?" That's the fellow that's pulling it with two. He said, "Four-head ought to be able to pull it. And can you string them out?" They had to string them out like you was on a wagon, you know.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And he said --- So I said, "I think so." And so I ---

RUSS: How many did you have to pull?

PAUL: That big breaker plow.

RUSS: Oh, what did it look like?

PAUL: A big huge, it was a walking plow. It had, just a regular old sodbuster, breaker.

RUSS: Oh, okay.

PAUL: And it would plow down and go about 10 or 11 inches deep. And then they had to

iron it up, because you'd get it in rock and in frozen ground.

RUSS: Oh yeah, yeah.

PAUL: Two big horses, or four-head could pull the, break the beam out of it. And anyway they had a big flat double tree for the two. Well we fixed it so we could hook four, strung out on it. And then I would stand, I'd trip my horses see, two ahead of, you know, four up on the, two in the lead, and two on the wheel.

RUSS: Right, right.

PAUL: And then I'd stand on that double tree, it was about that wide, about a foot wide, and about 40 inches long. And then they had the single trees on that.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: I'd stand on that and drive those four horses. And of course my hands I could just reach out and hit the wheel horses on the, right on their hips, but my hands, kind of keep my balance. But if they stopped or hit a rock real quick, I'd just throw my hands out and catch myself. And I did that for nearly two weeks after this big Belgian horse died. I told you about the ---

RUSS: Yeah, he died of colic.

PAUL: He died of colic. And he had to have him, he was shipped out on the railroad, he had to go up to Washington someplace. But anyway I drove those, the pile for two weeks, and I thought I was really something, you know.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Stand up there, I really enjoyed that. I hated to give that power up.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: When you come back with that horse, why I hated to get back to the old fresno. And everyday, you know, the dirt boss had told us where to dump this dirt, every time we

come out of the ditch with a load of dirt.

RUSS Yeah.

PAUL: He would walk along there, and he said, he'd point over there. Of course they had surveyors in those days too. They had it surveyed, and there was stakes and everything. But he'd tell you where to dump it, and he'd come around and dump my load once in awhile, and he'd say, "How old did you say you was kid?" He did that nearly every day. "How old did you say you was kid?" And I'd never look at him, I'd just say 14, and just walk on. Lied to him every day. Talk about orangutans. (Laughter) Anyway I did the job, they said I did great. And of course, you know, I think probably because my dad was in the hospital they, or they would never have let me drive it.

RUSS: Right, yeah.

PAUL: But they wanted the teams, they needed the horses. And they were looking for drivers too, all the time, because there was fellows here for --- most of them were ranchers, adjoining, local people that worked on those jobs. They had horses and they'd come. And then they had work to do at home, they'd take their horses and go. And they wanted everybody that could work steady, that's what they wanted.

RUSS: Yeah, oh yeah.

PAUL: And they were trying to hurry this job up, and that's the only reason they let me work there, of course. But they told me, he said, "You did just as much as any man there." So that made me feel good.

RUSS: You bet, yeah.

PAUL: But every day, I remember old Guy Weston was that fellow's name. And later on Cecil Box was another fellow that worked there, and he got married, a young fellow. He was about 23. And he married a sister to one of the kids I ran around with, school kids.

And they, they shivareed him, and I went to it. You know I thought I was a big shot, I was working there on that reclamation job, you know, I thought I was grown. And that was my first really shot of whiskey, moonshine, I think I ever drank. We were walking out of the dance hall; they had it at a dance hall there in ... big dance and shivaree.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And he said, he and a couple other guys --- and I was standing there by the door, and he said, "Hey kid," he says, he knew me, but he didn't know my name, he just called me kid. He said, "Come on," he says, "I'll give you a drink." So I went out and I took a pretty good swallow of that and I thought I was going to burn up. (Laughter) It was that old white lightening, you know, moonshine. Boy that was strong stuff. But I didn't go, I didn't take any more.

RUSS: You didn't sip it, you swallowed it?

PAUL: No, I swallowed it. Wished I hadn't have. But it kind of, must of; it really put my dancing shoes on. I was dancing with all the big girls, you know, and really having a big time. But I went back to see him later on, just a couple years ago.

RUSS: Oh yeah?

PAUL: The school down there sent me an invitation that they wanted anybody and everybody that had gone to school in King Hill to show up there for a reunion.

RUSS: Well I'll be darned.

PAUL: So I went down. And I got to see five different people that I knew when they were kids.

RUSS: ... How long ago was that you went?

PAUL: That was, went down there to the reunion in --- my wife had died. I believe it was about '82 or '83.

RUSS: God, that was 60 years.

PAUL: Yeah, yeah. And I, there was five people. They said all the rest of them --- there was Happy Woodard, and there was two brothers, the Browns, their name was Brown, I can't remember their first names. And Jim McGatland (sp.?) was one I used to run around, and Donald Lyle, Donald Lyle was dead. And a sister, brother to the sister that married Cecil Box, and she was living yet. She was in Boise the day I was down there and got to talk to ---

... (Pause in tape)

PAUL: --- his wife got back to Boise. But, what was I going to say? The ---

RUSS: Well they all, they got you all back to the reunion.

PAUL: Yeah. Yeah, we had a big picnic, and then they had a dance in the evening. And there was one, when I was going to school, there was one young gal, a little girl there, and I think she was in a grade below me. I was in the 6th grade at that time, that year. Then, she had kind of golden blonde hair, and I thought she was ---

RUSS: The cat's p.j.'s, huh? (Laughter)

PAUL: Fine gal, yeah. (Laughter) And I got to see her when I was down there. She grew up, she wasn't very tall, and she was kind of chubby, but she was still a good-looking woman.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And was married and had children and everything. But we had a pretty good visit.

RUSS: Oh, that's great.

PAUL: But I got these --- it seemed like, you know, I think there was about 30 kids in that school, maybe a few more, one teacher. And I just barely graduated to tell you the truth. My grades was, just barely got me through.

RUSS: Yeah, yeah.

PAUL: But I guess I was lucky at that after, you know, working and still having to study at night.

RUSS: Oh sure.

PAUL: And my mother would give me my dinner just as quick as I got in at dark.

RUSS: Well that's a chore for a young fellow, you know.

PAUL: Yeah. But I had to haul hay on Sunday, and then --- we didn't have to shoe our horses on the job, but we --- some of them were already shod, of course.

But they, it was, they had dances there, and of course they had a big fight there at the dance hall one night. Donald Lyle and Jim McGatland and I run around together all the time, a horseback, you know, when we was going to school.

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: And we, Jim and I was in, both of us were dancing and then we went outside looking for Donald, and found him outside. And, "Hey you guys," he said, "come here." So we went over where, he said, "Come on I want to show you something." We went out back of the outhouse and he'd dug around down there in the sagebrush and he come up with a pint of that old moonshine. And he said, "Taste this." And of course, you know, kids, we both took a swig of that, you know. I just tasted it, kind of, and then I took another little swig and I said, "That's enough for me."

Anyway Donald had been nipping on that bottle before we got out there. And after awhile he was, he was drunk, and he was sick. Oh, he did get sick. So we decided we had better walk him home. He lived down the road about a half a mile, so we walked him home. And we knew where he slept, in kind of a shed room off of the house, and it was an outside door. And we took him in there and we were trying to get him in bed, and get

his shoes off, and here come somebody out of the house, or there was a door from this room into the house. Mrs. Lyle came in and she says, "What's going on out here?" And I didn't say anything, but Jim McGatland said, "Oh Don got sick, we thought we better bring him home. He's going to bed, we're putting him to bed." She said, "What's wrong with him?" Well he didn't know what to say, and I didn't say anything, I was just scared. (Laughter) And she came over there and she could smell that whiskey.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: She said, "Where did you boys get that whiskey?" And I said, "Well we found it." And she said, "Well don't you know that stuff will kill you?" And I said, I didn't say anything. I just, standing there, I was afraid that she was really going to beat us up. And then here come Mr. Lyle, he heard the commotion and came out. And then he, she was still talking to us, and trying to get Donald, see what she could do for Donald.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: He was laying there, he was out. He had been heaving so much, and he was really in a bad way. So Mr. Lyle went out the front door, and she went over and closed and locked this back door. And said, "You boys come out this way." So then we knew we couldn't get back in from the outside. And when we went out, we didn't see Mr. Lyle but he had a scabbard, I'd seen it many times in his house. And the scabbard with a holster, you know, and it was hanging on a nail, and it was swinging a little bit like that. And I told Jim, I asked Jim, I said, "Did you see that holster?" I said, "The gun wasn't there." And we heard, we thought we heard him, Mr. Lyle go out, we heard the front door slam. And he had, he had gone out, he was mad, you know. And he slammed that door real hard, and it shook, it caused that holster and it was swinging there on that nail.

Well we ran for a little ways, and then we saw him, so we slowed down. We didn't

want to get too close, we was a little scared because we knew he was angry.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Well he got to the schoolhouse and it was intermission, you know, right at that time. And people were coming out of the dance hall. Well he went in, and my dad was standing just on one side of the door. And a lot of the guys standing around in the anteroom, and they had the desks piled up on one side.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Pretty high over next to the wall. And then on this side why places there where people could hang their coats yet. And we got to the door, and those people were coming out. And they'd thinned out a little and Mr. Lyle went in right ahead of us. And he says, "I want to know who gave my boy whiskey." And, see he didn't talk to us at all, he just --- when he saw or heard Mrs. Lyle say he was drunk, why he just assumed somebody gave him whiskey. And some lady said, "Well this man right here is a bootlegger."

RUSS: Oh. (Laughter)

PAUL: Just like that, and pointed to a young fellow standing there, and he had one foot kind of cocked up against the wall, and he was talking to another fellow. Lyle just walked over there and the guy looked at him, you know, and he looked at the lady. And Lyle just hauled off and hit him just as hard as he could. And his head just bounced and hit the wall, and the guy almost fell down. He stayed on his feet. And of course everybody just, three or four guys grabbed this, grabbed Mr. Lyle. But a gun fell on the floor, and my dad jumped and grabbed the gun. And then they dragged him out, took him out. He was going, he was really fighting to get loose, you know.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: He was really angry. I don't know whether they --- I don't, well Virgil was a brother

to Jim, Jim McGatland the kid I run around with. And his older brother, Virgil, and he was kind of a pug, he was, he boxed quite a lot. And then there was a cook for the other big camp on the other end of the reclamation job, was there. And he was --- they got to arguing about whether he pulled that gun out, or it fell out. They got to arguing out in the anteroom about that. And pretty quick, Virgil was hot headed, and he talked old, "Heavy" we called him, the cook, he was a cook on the other end of the reclamation camp. And knocked him over in those desks. And before "Heavy" could get out of there, Virgil jumped on top of him, and "Heavy" got one leg underneath him and he kicked Virgil back, shoved him back clear across the ante room and he fell on the floor. And then they both got up on their feet and the guys grabbed him and some said, "Let them fight it out, shove them out the door." And they shoved them outside, and they brought a gas lantern out and set it on the hood of an old Dodge car. And then they had another one hanging on the flagpole, a lantern.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And those guys stood there and they slugged each other until you couldn't tell who they were. They were bloody, their shirts were torn off, and they never did get down in the dirt. They fell down only once, and they both just got back up and started punching again. And they fought there for twenty minutes, until they both was completely exhausted. And they just, "Heavy" backed up against this old car, and was standing there a puffing and his arms a hanging down, and bloody, and his shirt was torn off. And Virgil, he said, "Virgil," he says, "I'm give out and I think you are too." Virgil was standing out there just weaving, just wobbly. And Virgil, "Heavy" said, "Let's go back and dance, we're causing everybody," he says, "we're breaking this dance up," he says, "we better let everybody go back."

And so I don't know where he got it, but pretty soon "Heavy" showed up and he had a clean shirt on, been washed up. I saw him over there washing at the pump, big old hand pump, you know, out in the school yard. He washed up and went back into the schoolhouse. And Virgil went home, he wouldn't come back in because, I don't know, he just didn't want to --- he was beat up real bad. I don't know, he could hardly see. But I never saw two men just beat each other, not even professional fighters, like that. Of course they didn't take any time out every two minutes or ---

RUSS: Yeah, they just fought.

PAUL: They fought for 20 minutes, just, they were really ... But that was just one of the --

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RUSS: Sidelights, high lights.

PAUL: Yeah, yeah, that was kind of an excitement, part of our stay there.

RUSS: Yeah. When you got back to Burns again after you did that gravel job ---

PAUL: Yes, yeah.

RUSS: --- what did you do? Did you have anything going on around Burns while the gravel job was being done, anything of interest?

PAUL: The only thing is we had a hard winter. We rented a, hay to haul, a hayrack, a sled, you know, one of those big sleighs.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And it had a hayrack on it. And we --- so this span of black mares that my mother drove all the way from Montana on this ... wagon. I didn't describe that to you, probably, but it was built --- Did I tell you this story? I don't want to repeat.

RUSS: No, you didn't tell me about it.

PAUL: Well it's kind of; you sit down in the wagon box like these campers do in a pickup

box.

RUSS: Oh, okay.

PAUL: Bed. And then it was a regular, they built it for sheep ... wagon, you know, out in the range, sheep men would use them. And they were about 7 feet wide. So part of the box fits down in the wagon bed, and then there are little benches on each side, and it is 7 feet wide. And it was, I think, 12 feet long, and it --- or 14. I think it was 14 feet. And they had their bed cross ways in the back. Pictures and a lot of stuff underneath. And the, she had her sewing machine and her trunk up front, and she sewed our clothes and patched them, and used her sewing machine up there. And she had a, she set there and had a nice seat fixed up. And she drove that team in that ... wagon all the way from the Canadian line, you might say, to Burns, Oregon.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And she missed one day, she was ill, and I drove the team for her. It was, spanned a little black Morgan mare. And they were, I worked them on that job over there when I was driving four of them. I used them on the lead because they was fast, you know. They handled good, they'd swing around and go any place you pointed them.

RUSS: What did your mother look like?

PAUL: Well she was quite tall; she was about five nine and a half, five nine, little over. And my dad was only five ten and a half. She was, light brown hair, I have pictures of her. And of course, you know, I thought she was a pretty woman, and she was. And she wasn't fat, she wasn't heavy. My Aunt Maude, her sister, became quite hefty when she got in her, got older.

RUSS: Yeah, yeah.

PAUL: She had twelve children in her family, and mother had thirteen. And she was

active, and she was a worker. She was the workingest woman I ever saw, my mother was. And she could just about do anything too. She had light, kind of --- well she had blue eyes.

RUSS: Uh huh.

PAUL: And light brown hair, and fair skin. Dad was darker. His father had black hair. And Dad's hair was, it wasn't coal black but it was dark.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: He had hazel eyes, and he was thin, thin tall man. And that's as near as I can tell you, but I'll show you a picture.

RUSS: Sure.

PAUL: Well it's ---

RUSS: Where did you go from Burns? How long did you stay there?

PAUL: The first winter, I was going to tell you about when that big snow came. One of our teachers, she taught music, and she taught another class that I wasn't in. And she, we were talking about sleigh riding, and I told her that --- she said they used to go hay riding years ago when she was a younger woman. And I said, "I've got a sleigh, we've got a sleigh at our place, and horses." And, well she said, "Why don't we hook up your horses and go for a hay ride one of these days?" And I told her, "Sure we could do that." And so we did. And we went on a sleigh ride and wiener roast. We had a big, we spent the whole day and half the night roasting wieners and marshmallows, and we had a big time on a Saturday evening. Well we were out half the day sleigh riding, and then trotting all over the country then.

RUSS: What year was that?

PAUL: That was in 1924.

RUSS: 1924.

PAUL: Yeah. And we had a big snow in Burns, Eastern Oregon. It was all through, 18, 20 inches of snow. And it stayed on for quite a long while. And, of course they had the streets already graveled so it wasn't so muddy then as it was before. Well I can't ...

... (Pause in tape)

PAUL: They struck oil up near Cut Bank, Montana, in that area.

RUSS: That was your daughter, or your sister?

PAUL: Yeah, my older sister. She was the second girl in the Howard family.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: They, it was a small field however. It is still pumping oil up there, but it's --- a lot of those wells have been pumped dry.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And it was pro-rated a lot too, they cut it back, you know, the government controlled. They needed oil wells up there and they pro-rated that oil north of that, Cut Bank, or in that area.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: They had, anyway they, it was good, you know, during the war why we were trying to get all the oil, you know.

RUSS: Oh yeah.

PAUL: We needed all the local oil. All the local oil fields here in the United States were pumping all they could pump, I guess. And, but they bought up several ranches there, Ruth and Ray Purdy. And they had four boys and two girls, six children. And Ray died when he was about 70. They had built up one ranch up there, they built a big log house on it, up there in Silvie's Valley, up on Poison Creek, between John Day and Burns.

And they, the kids went to high school in Burns, and they bought another ranch, alfalfa ranch down near Burns, just out of town about three or four miles. Used to be a dairy. And they, it run 400 head of cattle.

Then they had, they bought the old Cross place up, joining their upper ranch on Poison Creek. And then they had the Montana Ranch. Well what they did when they, Ray died, Ruth set up a deal, a trust, and sold the ranches, all their property. The home ranch where --- and they willed that to the oldest boy. See she maintained, or retained six acres and the house and barn and that area, all the improvements until she died. And then it goes to the oldest boy, which he has now. And then the oldest girl, next, they gave their ranch in Montana to her.

RUSS: Uh huh.

PAUL: And then the next boy, George, got the ---

RUSS: George?

PAUL: Yeah, got the alfalfa ranch, and ran 400 head of cows.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Made a lot of nice improvements, right down in the valley north of Burns. And the next, it was a girl --- no George was the next in line. And he got --- yeah he got, he's the one, George got that ranch with 400 --- the alfalfa ranch. And then Donna got the ranch in, her grandfather's ranch in Nebraska. He had a farm back there and she --- the corn, and cattle, and hogs, and corn. I think it was a 160 or 200 acres, something like that.

And then the Cross Ranch joined the home ranch just down, just below, towards Burns, and joined the home ranch. It was the biggest ranch, and they willed that to the two boys, youngest boys together. They each had undivided one-half interest in it.

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: And so they built another house on the other end of the ranch. And each of the boys had their own families, but they worked the ranch together, run their cattle together. They had a permit with the Taylor Grazing. And they had, they'd bought a lot of land up around, joining the ranches all through there. It was quite a big spread.

And then Ruth died. Well George sold his ranch to his, one of the boys that had, you know, the two youngest boys, he sold it to Wayne Purdy. And he bought a bar and restaurant there in Burns and --- no he sold it Clinton, the youngest boy. Yeah, he sold his ranch down town, down with that 400 --- I don't know how many acres in that ranch, but it had 400 acres of, or a permit up on ... Creek, one of those creeks up there.

RUSS: Oh, okay.

PAUL: And they, and Wayne has the big Cross Ranch in his family now. He has two girls, and he just lost a boy two years ago. He had gotten out of the military, came home, and bought a car, and he took --- there was another boy that he knew, went to school with here in Burns, and he had sister and he had taken her over to John Day to a picture show and they were coming back. And they were just up there, right opposite the Cross Ranch coming home from John Day, coming to Burns. They don't know whether they dodged a deer or what, but he rolled the car and killed him. Threw the girl out, she had her teeth all out, but it killed him, broke his neck. I was over for the funeral there, oh it's been three years ago, I guess it is three years ago.

And then two years ago Wayne, he contracted to the mill down there to Burns, cutting timber up there, falling trees and limbing. And then he had a contract to bunch all that cuttings, you know, limbs and stuff. Cleaning up.

RUSS: Slash burning ...

PAUL: To burn yeah, he didn't burn them, but the forest service come along and burned

them. They didn't want individuals to burn; it would get away from them. So they were falling the last two trees, he had a man working for him, and he had his Cat right there, and pickup, and he had a radio in it and everything, two-way radio. And he fell this tree, and of course he had fallen several right around there. Darn but a wind come up and it blew, it come a gust of wind and blew it the other way. So he ran, he was watching that tree, he didn't really know which way it was going to go, and he kind of hesitated. Then when he saw it was going to come to him, he turned around and he tripped and fell into that brush, the tree fell on him and run a limb clear through him, pushed his backbone right out through the back.

RUSS: Oh.

PAUL: Went right up and pushed his backbone clear out through the skin. Well the guy was cutting the tree right over there, of course he saw it and heard Wayne scream. He ran over there, and god he didn't know what to do. But the tree was up off of the ground about that high, but the limbs was holding him. It was kind of up toward the top. He cut the limb off. He didn't dare try to pull it out, he was afraid he would bleed to death. Wayne was just laying there groaning, you know, and he didn't know what to do. But he got on the radio and they sent a helicopter right up there. Of course he cut the limb off down close to his body, you know, about like that. And they loaded him in the helicopter and took him out to Burns and they took him out. And they patched him up and sent him right over to Bend to that big hospital there and the surgeons over there, you know, had better facilities and everything. And by golly he come around, but he couldn't, he was paralyzed, you know.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: His back is broke clear in two. He is paralyzed from the waist down. But he had

insurance. He almost dropped it, he told me. I went over as soon as I heard he was in the hospital, I went over. He --- Mutual of Omaha, he said his insurance cost him around \$1,200 a year, or more. He said it was --- but Wayne, all he had to do was pay the first \$10,000 and then they paid all other costs.

RUSS: Oh yeah.

PAUL: They even, and then they also pay him a monthly wage.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Monthly benefits. I don't know how much it is, but they paid him all his hospital bills. It cost him \$70,000 there in --- I don't know what it cost in Burns, but it cost him \$70,000 over in Bend.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And then they sent him to Portland to a specialist up there, and then to therapy. He was up there for a month, or a month and a half in Portland in therapy. And they fixed up a van for him so that he could drive, all controlled, hand controlled. And then they also helped him fix up his automobile so he could drive it. They bought him a, paid most of this four-wheel, one of these four-wheel Honda type things. And now he gets on and he goes out and checks the water, and drives all over, and goes out through the cattle, and goes up in the mountains and everywhere.

RUSS: God, that's great.

PAUL: And get out, you know, he's always worked out, been out, buckarood.

RUSS: Yeah. When you were finishing up in Burns, now what happened, in other words after 1925, what did you do?

PAUL: I ---

RUSS: Well you were in high school yet; you bought a car when you were in high school

yet.

PAUL: Yeah, I bought an old '13, 1913 Model-T with a brass radiator, and go clunk, clunk, clunk, you know. It was a good running son-of-a-gun. And they, I bought it --- you ever read about Irving S. Cobb, he was a writer for the Saturday Evening Post? Irving S. Cobb, he wrote for the Saturday Evening Post for years. And he and some photographers, and writers had four or five cars, and they were touring Oregon. Come from back east, they were touring Oregon, and they broke a wheel between Bend and Burns. You know it was just an old trading road, freight road in those days. RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And they broke a wheel, wooden spokes, and the rim and the tire were fine. And so they doubled up, and came on with the other four cars. I think there was five cars, four or five, and they doubled up, came into Burns. And Roe Davis had a wrecking yard started then, and he'd take these, buy these old cars that was broke down, you know. They didn't have any mechanics in those days ---

RUSS: No.

PAUL: --- unless you took it to Ontario or Boise, or to Portland. And so they --- he'd overhaul them and fix them ---

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

...

PAUL: --- and they had an old Dodge ready to go. So they traded it in on this Dodge and went on to Ontario, they were going east. And, they were going to LaGrande, or Pendleton, or someplace east of Burns. And they, that thing was setting there, and I saw it. I knew Roe and I've always been crazy about cars, you know. I used to, you know, I

didn't know much about a car when we was --- we only saw a few when we was traveling. One of them caused us to have a runaway, really something, I'll tell you about it.

But I took; I asked Roe if he couldn't get a wheel. So he finally sent over to Bend and got a wheel, and they sent it to Burns, freight, and the cost of the wheel and everything I give him \$3.50 for it. And he put it, mounted it, put the old rim and tire, the tire was fine, put it on the thing and cranked it up, away they went. Had a magneto on it, you know. Just give her one twist and away it went.

And I was driving that back and forth to high school. So after high school, I had the top down, and all the kids wanted a ride, you know. And they'd be probably four, sometimes five of these little girls, or boys too, setting on the top back here, and their feet in the back seat. Then there would be three or four down here in the seat. Wasn't too wide in those days, you know, it was only about like that. But they'd squeeze in there; all would get on that thing, and then two or three in the front. And we'd go up to the grist mill, and we'd cross the river and go over on the other side where the wagon road, and it was pretty smooth, and there was a lot of little ridges come down to the river, the water, you know, had washed gullies out. They had just built the road over, just like this. And we'd go over that real fast, you know, and it was a thrill. Oh they'd scream and yell, and sing and that, we had the best times up there.

Well one day we decided we'd go up there at noon and eat our lunch on the way. I got up there and run out of gas. (Laughter) All of us got --- I was almost expelled from school, you know. Oh gee, that was bad. The superintendent really give me a going over. And he wouldn't let me bring my car to school anymore. So finally though, after about a week, why I out maneuvered him. I had, well we lived out of town a mile, you know. So a kid up town had, his folks said I could park it there, and then walk on up, a

couple of blocks, to school. So I'd park it down there and then --- some-times us kids would all go down there and get on it, and away we'd go again. So we never tried it noontime again. Boy, I sure got a going over from my folks too, because they --- the pastor even talked to my dad about it. (Laughter)

RUSS: Well when you went to work after school what kind of work did you do after school, where did you work?

PAUL: Well I did any kind of job that --- I helped my dad. He tried to do a little painting. Sometimes when he felt like it he'd contract. He'd been a painter, learned the painting trade years ago, you know, when he was younger. And so we --- I'd help him after school and he'd pay me just a little of nothing, you know, to buy gas and stuff like that. And then I'd still --- I'd work at anything. I'd help saw wood, or throw wood in the basements, anything I could get, any kind of a job, and I worked a little of everything while I was just in high school.

And then they both got sick; mother had heart, her heart worsened. She'd been nursing for Dr. Smith, she was his nurse for, oh, a couple years there, and, until she just got clear down. She, her heart got to where she just couldn't hardly go. And they were both in bed, sick. And so I stopped in at the paper and asked them if they knew of a job that I could get. So he says, "Well Jess Bradeen has an ad in the paper, he wants a young fellow to work in the store out there, and to help juggle cotton cakes out to, out in the range out there for the sheep men, to feed their sheep in the wintertime.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And we ---

RUSS: What are cotton cakes?

PAUL: It's made out of cottonseed, and it's cotton cakes, cottonseed oil and cotton cake,

cottonseed ground up.

RUSS: Oh, okay.

PAUL: And it comes out of, you know, it is cottonseed really.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And it is just all ground up fine, and it makes a good feed. They mixed grain with it, ground up grain and everything, mixed with the cottonseed oil and it makes a cotton cake out of it. And it's kind of cubed in little chunks, cubes. And it would be in 80 and 100 pound sacks.

RUSS: It was similar to alfalfa pellets.

PAUL: Yeah, just like pellets, little bigger than pellets. But the sheep ate it fine, and out there the Irish from over at Lakeview wintered their sheep out in Hawks Valley, and Catlow Valley, North, or South Catlow Valley, and the foothills of --- anywhere there was government range they would go.

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: So they, I worked there for the Bradeen Brothers, oh, several months, I don't remember just how long but, until fall. And Joe Fine, along in September, we had rains in August and the grass started out on the range. And he, Joe Fine and Stringer had their sheep there, Swift and Company field.

And I was pumping gas for Joe, it was one of those old lever pumps, you know, you filled the little glass.

RUSS: I remember them. We had a ... but it was still filled with glass.

PAUL: Yeah, well this had a lever you worked back and forth and pumped it full. And then, then it would gravity pull into the gas tank.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And he says, "I need somebody to go out with the sheep," he says, "I've got 5,000 lambs we're going to turn all together in the meadow over there." And a herder, a little Basque fellow, Santiago was his name. And he says, "How would you like to go out and help him out there?" He says, "I've got to turn these sheep out while the grass is good, because we don't have much hay, and we want enough pasture to winter them over here." And they bought some other hay from other ranchers.

And I said, "How much do you pay?" And he said, "Well," he said, "the going wage," he said, "is \$50 and \$55 a month, and their board and all they can eat." He said, "I'll tell you," he said, "if you'll go out for a while," why he says, "I'll pay you \$70." And he said, "I'll furnish you Levis, and shoes, and your, a horse, a dog, and a rifle, and shells." And he says, "All the grub you can eat, and pay you \$70 a month." And he says, "They'll probably keep them out there for a couple of months anyway." So, well golly, that was just, I was getting tired of the store anyway.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: I had to clean out the basement out there, it was terrible. Pack all that junk up the stairway, and narrow stairs, and up. It was dusty, and he wanted it cleaned out and swept up, and build some shelves down there. And then I had to pack a lot of canned goods; I had to carry a lot of that stuff up out of there. And then some of it I had to take back, and then he had a lot of canned goods he wanted to put back down there where it stayed cool. And then he wanted room in the storeroom off the side of the store for cotton cakes, see. He was going to get a lot of cotton cakes in there in the fall. And so I'd already helped haul an old Model-A truck, haul some cotton cake out there. No, it was a Model-T, Model-T truck. And it was just about like one of these ... only had a bigger bed, you know. You couldn't haul a whole lot on it.

RUSS: I saw ... yeah, I know a Model-T. The bed is light.

PAUL: Well this was a little bigger than that, it was a little wider. Had one of those stake rack type things on it.

RUSS: Oh, okay, okay.

PAUL: So anyway I told, Bob was the, Jess' brother. Jess had a store over in Blitzen, in Catlow Valley at that time. That was quite a little going concern then. And Robert was running the Frenchglen Store, and he only had one lung. And he'd wheeze, you know, walk around all, go all day long, but he could, you could hear him from 20 feet away, you know. Poor old fellow. Anyway, I hated to quit him, but I, you know, I was getting \$50 a month and, the thing is I was supporting the folk's see.

RUSS: Right, you needed it.

PAUL: And there was two, three kids, Hazel and Billie and Jim still in school. And they had to keep in school, you know.

RUSS: Oh sure.

PAUL: They had to have the money. So --- and we was just renting a place there in Burns too. So I just had to go to work. There wasn't anybody, Jack was gone; he'd been married and gone. And all the girls married and gone except Hazel, and Billie and --- Ed had married and moved out to Diamond. And they didn't, they were just starting out, they didn't have anything, you know.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Anyway, I went out, Joe gave me the saddle horse. He gave us a, set up a base camp up there on Jack Mountain. And a big tent, and ... had three or four sacks of grain, and a lot of case goods and food, you know, of all kinds. And then he gave us a burro with a pack, had a packsaddle and alforjas. We had these grub boxes they'd put in the

alforjas. We put those on the burro, and take a tepee, big old --- said he liked to sleep in a tepee, you know, if it rained or anything.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: I slept right out in the open. I had a big canvas, heavy canvas I could pull up over my head if it rained. And anyway we packed that burro up and put our, had our grub and everything, and then we'd take, go, leave the base camp and we'd go out for three days out in one direction, make a circle, and come back. We had to go and find water a lot of places, you know.

RUSS: Uh huh.

PAUL: Of course it had been raining and there was a lot of little water there in those little low places, creeks there, for the sheep. And then we'd come back, and we salted them only a couple times while we were out there, two months, gave them a little bit of salt. But then if you salted them they'd take a lot of water. We didn't want to ---

So we, and then we'd make a circle and come back and replenish our pack burro, and go again in some other direction. And we came in on Christmas day. And then Diago wanted to take a vacation, and they had a little bit of hay there. Well they was going to try to pasture for a while, so I looked after his sheep. And he hired another young Basque they brought out from Boise. And the two of us, see there was 5,000, amounts, in that bunch. And even on the P Ranch, you know, they scatter, you'd be hard to gather them, even a horseback. Because there is a lot of willows, and some of it was across the river, and some place where it is shallow in the fall of the year, you know. And we had to keep track of them.

So I worked there, and Joe said, "Well I want you to stay on." He said, let's see, in October --- no the first year, no they were just big lambs, see, April lambs. And then we

turned them out in the spring, and we took them to the mountain and summered them up on the mountain. And then brought them down and put them on pasture, and they brought a lot of bucks and brought out there and bred them, see, out there on the P Ranch.

And so I stayed with Joe, and then I herded sheep the next year. And I herded sheep three years. And then I went to tending camp. And then when I was 21 ---

RUSS: When you were tending camp, what did you do?

PAUL: Well I had a herder, we had only, at that time they were ewes and lambs, see. They split them up into three bunches, ewes, lamb bunches. And we had --- no four, we split them up into four bands. And we had, we lambed right out on the open range. Take them up in the Steens Mountain, and Joe rented a lot of little places up there. He was paying \$300 a month for each one, to summer on. There was a lot of guys still homesteading up there. And in 1932 I filed on a homestead, a full section, and got a patent on it. And I tended camp then and lived on my place while I was up there. And I'd keep a pack string over there, I fenced a small pasture into it, keep the horses. And then I bought 40 acres, and then I'd go, and whenever I had to move camps I'd take my pack mules and go over there and move them. And if they lost a bunch of sheep I'd go and look for them, replenish their supplies. I'd have to go to Frenchglen with a pack string and get a load of grain and salt, sheep salt, and groceries. And that's the way all the guys did.

And gradually they had six bands of sheep. And they had three camp tenders and six herders. So we had, oh it was just a pretty big outfit. They built a big lambing shed there on the P Ranch. And lambing, or where you would lamb in February instead of April, early lambing, like they do in Idaho. And we had, oh big cookouts, and had quite a

crew of men there during lambing time. It was --- then they gradually, you know, they cut down on the sheep, and Joe, they had put him in as manager. He went to work for Gill Cattle Company as manager up at the ranches up there, and went into the cattle business.

And Stringer, Joe ran the sheep there for quite awhile. But I quit and went to Joe -- - see I'd help my dad paint, and Joe --- I'd mentioned it one time there that I helped my dad do some painting. And Joe said, "You know how to paint don't you?" And I said, "Yeah, I've done a little of it." He said, "I want to paint all those buildings up there. Gill wants to brighten things up around, and re-roof some of the houses." And I did that, and painted them. Painted all the inside, and the outside. And all those ranches, that was a big job, you know. Painted all the hayracks, and the wagons. And I got to be maintenance man; I was maintenance man then for six years. All I did --- I just helped to buckaroo at times, you know, when they needed some help, spare help. Helped brand and ... and hold rodeo in fence corners some-place and brand calves, you know, like we did over there only it was just in the fence corner. Maybe we would stretch two or three extra wires so the calves couldn't get through, or we would put netting wire, if we had it, why we'd put netting wire on there for a quarter of a mile on two sides, and around the corners just to hold them there in the corners.

Then I filed on that homestead up there, and every year I'd go back up there and work on that a little, every month. And Joe would give me weeks off, you know, a week or two off, and I'd go up there. And then I'd go up there, and back and forth, you know, if we didn't have much to do. And then finally, of course most of the time it was horseback. And it was just kind of like a --- well it was fun for me.

RUSS: Oh, I know.

PAUL: Finally I got my place fenced; I cut my posts, carried my wire from the packhorse and fenced it. Built me a house, hauled lumber up there. And then they, I got, received word that there was an inspector coming up there, he had several homesteads to inspect. So I met him down there at Frenchglen and took him up to my place, took him around to, I knew where all the other places were. And he stayed up there with me for three or four days, took him places. And later on I got my patent on my place. It was quite a little while before I got it. And then, they were pretty strict on it.

RUSS: Yeah, well its got to be so many years, you got to be there so many years.

PAUL: Yeah, I maintained, well I had groceries there. And even in the wintertime I left, I had cabinets, I had these pull out drawers at the top, you know, bins.

RUSS: Yeah, yeah.

PAUL: And I put everything in there and poured grain over it, and it would keep it. We went up there, left there in November and then I went back up there in May, the first of May. And my brother went with me, a horseback. And we, the snow was pretty deep in places, snow banks, in places. But we just trotted right along. And we was kind of hungry and so I dug around in those bins, and there was some eggs in there. I put two or three dozen eggs down in there, and bread, and bread was just solid mold. But the flour was good, flour I had it in a big tin; it was a coconut can about that high, about that big around. And I made some drop biscuits, you know, mix it up with a spoon, real thick, put it in the ... And I said, "I'm going to break an egg here," and I said, "be ready to run." I said, "The egg may be spoiled." Broke it and the yoke just stood up there just nice, and the yolk was, a little bit, had just a little bit of a yellow to it. But I put quite a lot of pepper in it. And we scrambled them, you know. Well I chipped up some bacon. It was kind of moldy but I washed it off with vinegar, and par boiled it, and chopped it up real fine and made it real

crisp. And scrambled eggs, and then I made some milk gravy and biscuits. And I had canned goods down in there. We had a regular picnic there. (Laughter) Anyway, it was filling, and it tasted real good, I'll tell you, when you're hungry.

RUSS: Oh yeah.

PAUL: Didn't have, I never did leave any canned meats because, you know --- of course we used to get canned corned beef, you know.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And, but it --- anyway the hunters got to coming in up there. Another friend of mine, Chester Nye homesteaded up there and I helped him build a log house. We poured a cement foundation, and then we laid the bottom logs right in the cement, which is the wrong thing to do, because they rotted.

RUSS: Oh yeah.

PAUL: But it lasted 20 years or more, 25. But the only ... took mortar and got some sand out of some of those washes, you know, a little creek where the water, running water is, a little gravel and stuff. It was crude stuff, but I had plenty of lime and mortar, I made something to chink it. And then I made a little, cleats to tack over top of this. And we put a good-shingled roof on it. It was nice.

And later on it was, I bought the place from him. And he wanted to buy a place, a little ranch out in the valley. So I bought his ranch property. He had 400 acres, a little over 400 acres, I think. He had ---

RUSS: What did you have at the time?

PAUL: 640 acres.

RUSS: 640, oh, okay.

PAUL: He had homesteaded up in Okanogan country up in Washington, I think 80 acres.

So he would have, let's see, 400 --- 640, yeah. It would be 460, wouldn't it, acres he had?
So anyway, he had 400 and some odd acres up there.

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: And I think I give him \$1,800, no I gave him \$2,000 for it. And we, he had, we had tried to build a road, we made a trail. We'd take these big old dry Quakers, they were real dry and they were tough. But the roots had rotted off until they were just, you know, couple feet deep, but they stuck out, you know, like plows. We used them to plow the sagebrush out, and the rocks and the stuff, you know. We dragged them from Fish Lake clear over to his place, which was about 6 or 7 miles. And then we'd dig out rocks here and there, and made a road there eventually. And then we made, cut out Quakers and dragged them over and made ---

... (Pause in tape)

PAUL: ... and then you go along and throw them out, and then kind of fill in the holes, you know, gradually it just made a pretty good trail.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And of course we pick out the ... grade so that you could make it with a car of some kind. And anyway I bought his place. And the hunters finally found their way in there with --- and they wanted us to pack their deer. And that's how I started packing deer, and started a deer camp, hunting camp.

RUSS: Oh.

PAUL: And I did that for 17 years, that was my vacation every year. I worked all the time, but I'd always get off. I worked for Joe for years, and I was, run the hay crew, and ---

RUSS: Joe who?

PAUL: Joe Fine. He was manager of the Gill Cattle Company.

RUSS: Oh, okay.

PAUL: He managed, he was manager, counting the time he was down there for Swift, he was there 30 years, the general manager.

RUSS: And Swift is the one that bought the old ---

PAUL: P Ranch, Peter French.

RUSS: --- Peter French Ranch, okay.

PAUL: Yeah, bought the Peter French. I think there was 156,000 acres they bought. And gradually they, hunters got to driving in there and wanted to pack out, and I'd pack them out. And I kept accumulating horses. I'd rent a few, and sometimes pack eight or ten out.

RUSS: What year did you start this?

PAUL: That was in, along in '34. I proved up on it, I filed on it in '32, was the last year that you could homestead. And I proved up on it in four years and got a patent to it. I think it was four or five years before I got a patent.

RUSS: '36, '37.

PAUL: Around '36, '37. And they, we'd been packing deer all the time that we were in there. You know we built kind of a trail in there so we could get up there in a car. And then I took a contract; Joe wanted 6,000 posts, juniper posts cut. And I took a contract to cut them, up there in Bridge Creek, in that area. There is a lot of junipers down in those canyons.

RUSS: Now where is that at?

PAUL: That is east, up on the Steens Mountains.

RUSS: Okay.

PAUL: East of Frenchglen and P Ranch Valley there, the old Peter French Ranch. I used

to live in the old Peter French house. I stayed in that house, oh for months, whenever I was around, working around there, you know. I was kind of maintenance man for 6 years there.

RUSS: Is that the one they made into the restaurant?

PAUL: No, no.

RUSS: Oh.

PAUL: The restaurant and hotel was an old building they moved over there to start with, and then they remodeled it, and cut it up and made eight rooms. Well it only had four rooms to start with. It had just one, the first time I ever stayed there it was just one big room upstairs, and it had six beds in. And sometimes they'd be three or four different people, you know, people, transient people come through there.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Maybe there would be a bunch of, some rancher trailing cattle through and he'd have four or five cowboys. Well they'd double up in some of those beds. Then maybe there would be a traveling salesman, or maybe somebody else. They'd hang blankets up between --- a wire across, stretched across. And one stairway up there, and no outhouse. No facilities at all, bathroom facilities. Then you had to get up and go outside.

RUSS: In cold weather that smarts.

PAUL: Yeah. (Laughter) But at least it was sheltered.

RUSS: How about rattlers in the hot weather? Were there any around there?

PAUL: Very few. Oh, there was some in the foothills there, yeah.

RUSS: But I mean not around the house.

PAUL: I never, not right close. However even after we had the hotel there was one killed right up there above the --- there was an irrigation ditch came down around the edge of

the hill, back of the hotel and the store. And it came down the water, I guess, off of the hill. And it was within a hundred yards of the hotel. That's the only one I ever heard of right there. But over in the, over on the east side into the edge of the meadows ever once in awhile you'd have one on, that would come off the foothills of the Steens Mountains, they'd come down in there. Well in the valley there were bird nests, and mice, and the hay fields ---

RUSS: Oh yeah.

PAUL: --- and they'd come down in there. But I never heard of anybody getting snake bit there at all. Along in the foothills farther up toward ---

... (Pause in tape)

RUSS: We're going through there in the end of July.

PAUL: Oh yeah.

RUSS: Going to --- with your daughter.

PAUL: Oh.

RUSS: With the 4-H.

PAUL: Yeah.

RUSS: So I'm just curious as to what I'm going to run into.

PAUL: Well, you know, of course you get used to them, and you watch all the time.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: But I usually wear a high top boot. But very seldom --- I've been all over the, ever bit of that Steens Mountain, and all the deserts around that part of the country with the sheep, you know. I didn't wear boots all the time, a lot of times I had --- I usually wore, I wore boot shoes, and I've worn low-top, just regular shoes too at times. Because in the wintertime you wear something that is not slick. I mean you wear something that is fairly

comfortable. And in that cold weather you want a little bigger shoe and ---

RUSS: Oh yeah.

PAUL: --- and heavy socks, see. And anyway, there is rattlers up there when we was haying at the Riddle Ranch, we killed 13 rattlers there doing our little hay job, about two weeks haying.

RUSS: Now which one are they rebuilding, yours or the Riddle Ranch?

PAUL: The Riddle Ranch.

RUSS: The Riddle Ranch, the one that they're rebuilding.

PAUL: Yeah, the log house is still there. My, the ones that I built, or Chester Nye and I built together, for him on his homestead.

RUSS: Oh, that is the one we're talking about then? In other words ---

PAUL: No, that was my hunting camp. But the Riddle Ranch is down below.

RUSS: Oh, okay.

PAUL: That's the one that Rex Clemens bought without seeing it. He bought the Riddle Ranch. But it has a log house. And they're going to re ---

RUSS: They're redoing one of them.

PAUL: Rebuild it. They're going to, yeah they're going to replace those lower logs that's rotted out, and leave it as is. Except they're going to clean it up, and fix it up and preserve it.

RUSS: Right. I've got to get a look at that. But yours is above that?

PAUL: Oh yeah, yeah. But it has burnt down.

RUSS: Oh, it's burnt down, okay.

PAUL: Veltie Pruitt, after I left there, after I sold --- I sold that to John Scharff, Superintendent of the Bird Refuge, the hunting camp. And I sold my Cold Springs place

to Riddles before they, before Walt died. Walt and Fred were still alive when I sold that to them. I --- and I sold the ... the old, well B. B. Clark is the one that proved up on it. And afterwards he had the Ranch Supply there in Burns. And he bought it from, or Pate had relinquished his right to it. He didn't quite prove up on it.

RUSS: Uh huh.

PAUL: And then B. B. Clark went ahead and finished fencing it, and built a house on it, and proved up and got a patent to it. Anyway Kueny got it, and then I bought it from Kueny. And then when I sold out up there I went to Idaho and bought a ranch. Well I sold; I sold the Riddle, Cold Springs to Riddle. John got the hunting camp, John Scharff. And then I sold my place back to Kueny. Joe Fine and Ethel wanted it. Joe wanted it over in Smyth Flat; he was managing for Gill Cattle Company see, over in the Smyth Flat country. And he was wanting all the land that he could get. And then traded to the, he had a lot of government land fenced inside the Company fence over there. And he wanted to block it out, and trade him some odd pieces of land that Gill owned. Trade it to the BLM and --- like ...

RUSS: Swap it, yeah swap it.

PAUL: He'd swap it for some government land over there.

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: And that way he'd have the deed to his land, it would be under ...

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: And where they run cattle, see they didn't run on the north end of the Steens at all, but over in the south end. So they, anyway, we --- I had lots of hunters come in there. And then I, sometimes I'd have seven, eight, nine guys and packers, guides. And then accumulated horses, and I rented a lot of them to start with.

RUSS: Did you run any cattle up there at all?

PAUL: No, not there.

RUSS: Where did you run your cattle when you ---

PAUL: Well I had, I bought --- when Chester Nye, he wanted to sell his place out in Catlow Valley then, he'd bought --- after I sold, bought his place on the mountain he went out there and bought a little ranch, 1,100 acres. And then after that he became kind of ill, he wanted to move to town, and so I bought his place out there. And then I got the, then I had the hotel. And of course I run some cattle out there. We run some there, we had a 75 head permit there at the Princeton Hotel, with the hotel, see. It had a range, had a range ... outside permit. It also had a permit in the refuge. It had a, one field that you could cut hay, 337 acres of hay land. And then we had about 300 acres for pasture, for transient cattle and horses, that people moving through they could put their cattle in there and hold them, or horses, or whatever. And it was partitioned, had two different fields, pastures. And then I also had, kept some saddle horses there. People stop at the hotel, and tourists were coming out, and fish running, they wanted to ride horseback.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And we, I rented some horses out to them. And we served meals, and we had cattle, and then I leased another ranch, dry land ranch up on Jack Mountain, had 138 head of cattle with it. And put up rye hay, and I was a busy boy.

RUSS: Yeah. When do you break your ankle, when that horse fell on it that time?

PAUL: Well that was in 19--- I had a few cattle, and I was running with Dell Witzel, my brother-in-law and my sister's cattle over in Diamond. And I was kind of looking after cattle. And he was, and "Ted" were living in Burns. And they had a, he had homesteaded the Baca Lake, which is Baca Lake now. It was over near the Krumbo

there at the P Ranch. But it was dry land, they had drained it. The levee, they --- what they had done, what they did they went in there and put up a levee across there and kept the water from filling up this old Baca Lake.

RUSS: Uh huh.

PAUL: And Dell Witzel homesteaded in it. And he also had bought a place over in that, adjoining. And they, he raised oats. And oh, the biggest crop of oats I ever saw. They were, it really produced. But later on ---

RUSS: Let's see, when you left there she took over the store then?

PAUL: Well she bought the house later on. I sold it to people in Burns, and then I went up to Baker and bought a ranch up there. I had sold my ranch in Catlow, and bought a ranch up in Baker. And it was right next to Baker, right next to town there. And it straddled the Powder River. And it had a nice house on it, big barn. Put up about 200 ton of hay. It was 776 acres in it. And another fellow --- we just had it less than a year, and he wanted it better, more than I did, so I sold it to him.

RUSS: Where did you fall through the ice that time?

PAUL: Pardon?

RUSS: Where did you fall through the ice?

PAUL: Oh, that was in the refuge down there. We had the hotel, my wife and I did, and I had quite a few horses. And I pastured them down in the salt field down, fairly close to the canal there.

RUSS: Uh huh.

PAUL: And on the west side, the north side of the canal, it runs east and --- no, the canal runs north and south, and it was on the west side of the canal. And they had dredged quite a big ditch, you know, pulling dirt up to build the banks on it for the river, to keep the

river in its banks during high water. And of course it ... and of course they also irrigated and a lot of the waste water and things filled this big ditch down here just below the canal bank where they had a road, there was a roadway on the west side. And anyway Cactus Smyth, I was, he didn't have any hay, and I had more hay than I needed there at the hotel, and he wanted me to winter his little bunch of cows, about 38 or 40 head. And so he was around the hotel quite a bit. And I was going down to ... big freeze there, and the ice was --- wasn't heavy enough, well it would have probably held the horses in certain areas there. But they'd get out there and it would break through and they'd turn around and go back. And it was pretty muddy in that swamp. Well anyway they was getting hungry, they'd eaten all the tules, and the roots and everything else. They was pawing for, and eating that old tule peat stuff. And anyway I tried, went down and tried to get them two or three times, and it was just, so much, such high water. And then it froze. Well I knew they had to have something to eat, so I thought we'd go down and --- there is, across that where they had dredged the dirt out to help build the bank, the canal, there was an open spot there, there wasn't any tules. The sun was low in the south, and it was shining across atop those tules, and there was open water over here, but ice on the south side of that pond.

I thought I could ride through that. I told Cactus to walk across the ice. He tied his horse down by the fence and walked down on the other side of the horses. I was going to ride my horse across, and then turned around and come back. They wouldn't come across there themselves, but I thought maybe they'd follow me back. I didn't realize that water was that deep. Well it was steep, about twelve feet down to the water, and it was slick, and it was starting to thaw a little.

So once I started down, my horse down there, we just slid. And we slid right in the

water and went clear down. The water came clear up to the saddle horn. And the old horse just stuck his head in the air, and then he threw his head down. And over here about five or six feet was ice, and it was kind of thin on the edges. Of course the sun was shining across, and then shade over there, or the tules, why it was solid ice about six, eight inches deep. But he threw his head down and then rolled, just rolled over like that. And I didn't want to stay on him, I was afraid I'd get under him. So I threw myself away, and I just floated right over there underneath that ice.

And so what I did, he was thrashing around, getting back on his feet. And I didn't want to get close to him, and I wanted to get out from underneath that ice. I stood up, and I hit my head on that ice. But my feet went down in that old soupy mud, you know, tules and soft mud down there. Well, I tried to step, but I didn't get my foot out, and then I fell, see. And I fell right toward him. I had to throw myself back that way. And I kind of rolled and my foot came out of the mud, and I just kind of fell, and I fell right in against his legs. And he was facing west, still facing the way I slid into the pool.

And I fell and rolled right down by him and he, when I bumped his leg, he lifted his leg up, and then set it down, and I was trying to get up, and he stepped right on my hand. I had gloves on my hand, and he just pushed it right down in that mud, just like that. I rolled, I grabbed myself like that, and I reached like that, well about that time he stepped on my hand. He just pushed it right down in the mud, and I couldn't get it out. Bruised my hand, my gosh I thought he had broke it. And I reached up, and I was trying to get a hold of the stirrup, see.

SIDE D

PAUL: I was trying to reach it, and I was wanting air, I was already, I was wanting air a

long time ago. And I kept reaching for that stirrup, and finally I got, kind of got a hold of it, and I passed out. From then on I don't know what happened until I came to. I was laying up on the bank. Well I remember seeing the bank. I couldn't hardly, later on, I had to slide down and get--- he'd turned around. Later on I was --- But I'm ahead of my story. I laid there and heaved. I even coughed up blood, you know, in that old water, that old muddy --- And, you ever get any water in your lungs or ---

RUSS: Oh yeah.

PAUL: --- get any coffee just accidentally go the wrong direction and ---

RUSS: Well I've got coke in there, and you think that don't burn, man.

PAUL: Oh that just burn, and hurt. I just thought I was --- I mean I just couldn't hardly --- And finally Cactus thought there, something must have happened, see. So he came back, oh I don't know, I don't know how long it was. And I was laying up there, and that's the first --- I didn't know where I was when I finally --- all I could see was just sparks, and I'd kind of open my eyes, I had mud in my eyes and everything else. And finally could breathe a little bit, and I coughed for days though.

But Cactus came and he helped me get up on my feet. And after I kind of got to where I could talk a little I told him what had happened. And then my old horse had turned around and tried to come up, but he couldn't make it. You could see where he tried to come up. So I slid down and took his rope, and slid down and got a hold of the bridle reins. And then I got back up to where there was cow tracks in that mud, and then it froze see. And I could kind of get my heels hung in that, and my boots were full of water and everything too. I was soaking wet.

And I got up and he took his rope then, and the old horse would try to get up, but he'd fall down on his knees and slide back down. So he threw his rope out there and got

it on the saddle. And he got on a horse, got on his horse and helped pull him out. We finally got him out of there.

And then I laid down, I got my boots, Cactus had to pull my boots off. I poured the water out of them, and then I was getting, I was so cold I was shock and everything, you know, I was just shaking, I couldn't hardly talk. My teeth was chattering, and I was, the wind was just, a March wind blowing. And wintertime, just like winter, you know.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Well I walked along; I let the horses go, and walked until I got warmed up. I had an awful time getting my boots back on. I had to take my socks off and squeeze them out, put them back on, and then I finally got my boots back on. And then I walked until I got --- and Cactus --- the old horses didn't want to trot, so Cactus hit him on the rear and got him in a trot, and I was ahead of him, you know. And they got to trotting, trotting along there until I warmed up. Then I got on him and then we galloped the rest of the way, about a mile and a half up to Perry Lowe's house. They were living at Five Mile. We crossed the canal and went over there and Mrs. Lowe's son was just pouring water in the radiator of his old Ford, getting ready to go up to Frenchglen. And I asked him if we couldn't leave our horses there and ride up with him, and he said, "Sure." So he took us up to Frenchglen. And I walked into the hotel --- and that old horse when I, he had raised his foot; hit me in the mouth evidently.

RUSS: And you didn't know it, and you were bloody.

PAUL: And had a cut lip, and broke a tooth off, and my nose was bleeding, and I was a bloody mess when I got home. And my hand was sore, swelled up. And I walked in there and Gladys came to the kitchen, through the dining room door, and saw us come into the lobby. "My god," she said, "what happened to you?" "Oh," I said, "Cactus got mad at me

and hit me, and beat me up." I said, "He was a little, he was smaller than you, and only about that high, you know." She looked at Cactus, and then she looked back at me. And of course Cactus come in with a big grin on his face, you know. And anyway, I told her what happened. But I was just shaking.

RUSS: Oh yeah.

PAUL: And I went and took a hot shower and bath and went to bed. And she had to put, she'd heat the blanket, we didn't have electric blanket. We didn't have electricity in the hotel then, there wasn't any electricity out --- And she put a hot water bottle in there, I was just shaking, just from shock and from cold. And he'd hit me in the mouth pretty hard, my lip was swelled up, I couldn't hardly eat. Anyway, that was just one of the things that happened out there at the ---

RUSS: Where did you get your ankle broke?

PAUL: Well that was when I was over getting the, I had two bunches of cattle. Otleys had one of those fields, government fields down below Diamond Valley. Below Diamond, a little post office and town over there. And I had my cattle with Dell Witzel and I was looking after his, and staying there at New Diamond Ranch. And I had, Otley had told me they had one of our cows down there and she was heavy with calf. And he said they were going to move their cattle out to another field somewhere over on the other side of the valley. And they said, maybe if you get a chance get your cow out of there because she is going to calve pretty quick, and we're going to move ours.

So I went down there, and it was raining, and I was wet, it was cold. It was in the springtime, different year. This was before the hotel deal and, before I married. And I went, hunted all morning, about, oh took me three hours to locate it. But they was scattered all through that big field, that big swamp. And there was little islands, and cattle

everywhere. And there was 700 head scattered, and it was hard to find her.

RUSS: I guess.

PAUL: Finally I found her, I didn't dare open the gate before I took her up there, because there was cattle up close to that fence, between our cattle, between Dell's, and mine, and Otleys. So when I got her up there why I let her just settle down, and I just held her there for a while and she just stood there, you know. Kind of a wild acting cow. And she wasn't close to the gate, but I rode around and went over there real slow. And I opened the gate, and just as I dropped the gate down, she started up. So I trotted out, galloped down there, and I headed her back. And she came back up near the gate. She came back up here instead of going through the gate, she just went right on by it, stayed in the same field. But over here they'd been, they had hauled hay out of here years ago and deep ruts, you know, and it filled up with water and then froze, solid ice. And then it was thawing a little, raining on top of it.

Well I was trotting along here and then I saw her, I couldn't see her, there was a strip of willows right parallel to the fence. When I dropped that gate down, it fell in snow, about six or eight inches of snow. And I was in a hurry, I didn't dare get on, throw it back too far, I just wanted to get out there and head her off before she got too far-gone. So anyway I was galloping along here and looking through the willows trying to locate her, see her someplace so I could cut her and head her back. And that horse hit that, those strips of ice where those ---

RUSS: Ruts were.

PAUL: --- ruts were. And he just flipped like that. And I was cold, and I had overshoes on, and I had a heavy mackinaw, and buckskin gloves, they were slick when they're wet. And just hit like that, and I couldn't get away from him, and he fell right on my right leg and

broke that about six inches above the ankle. And it split down into the ankle, split the bone down. And then it felt just like he mashed the stirrup right on my foot. And I was afraid to let him up. And I pulled his head up and he just laid there and kicked for quite awhile and finally quit. And he just laid there groaning, you know. I knew my saddle was so loose, you know, I just figured when I got off to close the gate I'd tighten my cinch again, and I didn't. I should have --- because I just rode up and opened it and dropped it, see.

RUSS: Yes.

PAUL: I didn't get off. And I was just sure --- he didn't have much withers anyway. And I pulled his head back so he couldn't get up. And he was laying there with his nose backed up just so he couldn't get up. And I was --- it didn't, it hurt, but yet I was still, you know, I wasn't anywhere near passing out. But it really, it made me a little sick, and I was getting worse all the time. And I mean it was, I think I was getting scared a little bit, because I knew my saddle was turned if I let him just get up without ---

RUSS: Right.

PAUL: --- hanging onto his mane. And his mane was only about three inches long, you know, down there. And you couldn't, up here even, use the little hump that is --- thin, real thin mane, I bought him from Fred Witzel. Pretty little horse, and high life. So I took, finally pulled my gloves off when I ... off my right hand. And I was holding ... the left, and I twisted my finger into that short mane as good as I could, and got the horn, around the horn like that, and then the mane, and then I let him get up. Because I had to do something, I couldn't just lay there. And you just, moving, every movement, you know, was hurting worse than ever.

And my saddle turned a little, but it stayed on him. And I gripped him with my left

leg just as hard as I could as he was getting up, you know. Boy that was a relief when I --

- But the saddle had turned some, but I just jumped on my left leg, you know, and shook the saddle over, and straightened it up a little after he had got up. And of course he was throwing his head then, he was wanting to go, and he just, he would --- well I head him toward the gate, I had to go over, and I tried to pick the gate up with my rope. My foot, I got it out of the stirrup, and it just flopped around, you know, like that. But I, when I got over there I couldn't pick that gate up. I tried every way to pick that darn thing up. And I couldn't get it out of that, get it down, you know, underneath the gate stick, or hook it on to the wire or anything. So I slid off and hopped around and closed the gate. Then I got a hold of the strings on the back of the saddle, on the opposite side, and reached around and got the horn like this and held the reins with my left hand. And I lifted myself right up and got my toe in the stirrup, my left toe in the stirrup. Then I had an awful time getting my --- of course I bent my knee, and slid my knee up over and then I held on my leg and let it down, and headed for home. Then I had to go through two more gates, a wire gate and then a board gate. But he had been, Fred had trained him pretty good on opening gates.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: He'd swing right around, he'd stand there until you, you could hook your reins over here and he knew he had to stand there until you fastened the gate with the gate stick, you know. And rode up to the ranch, and then I --- nobody there, I had my car setting there, but I rode on up to Olson, Albert Olson lived up on the hill a ways. So I rode up there and Lottie came to the door, and she said, "Get off, and come on and have a cup of coffee." Well I said, "Albert home, is he going to be home pretty quick?" "Yeah, he is going to be here in just a short while." And well I said, "I need, I got a broken leg Lottie."

And she kind of laughed, and come out, walked out on the sidewalk and said, "Oh well you just as well come on in and get warm." And then she kept, come on down to the gate, where I was, close to where I was setting. And she said, "Oh my god," she said, "you got a broken leg?" And I said, "Sure," I said, "I've got a broken leg down there." And she just, I said, "I got to get somebody to take me into Burns." And I said, "Fred, Frank and Betty home, why they'll take me in." And she said, "Yeah I know they're home." And she ran and got in her car and just went down that hill just a --- and there was ruts where Albert comes plowing up there with his pickup, you know, and then it froze, and it was thawing a little bit, and it was slick. And her old pickup was going just like this. I mean it wasn't a pickup, it was her coupe. Albert had the pickup, the government pickup. And I thought sure she was going to break the wheels off of that thing. It was just a flopping around like that. And I rode on down to the ranch, the New Diamond Ranch, and I got off my horse and put my saddle in the trunk of my car, and it was just about thirty feet over to the gate. I had driven up there and caught my horse, and set, I always put my, carried my saddle in the car so I would have it. And hobbled back, got in the car, and was sitting in the back seat when Frank and Betty came. And then they drove me into Burns in my car, and, about 50 miles.

And then they put me in a wheelchair, and they had a ramp in the back of the old rock hospital, quite a long ramp. If it was dry, why they could push a person up there in a wheelchair with a little help, hook a rope onto it. And it was, had ice, it was on the north side of the hospital. And there was ice on there about an inch thick. (Laughter) A little snow yet too. And they had a nurse and a young fellow up there, I think he was an intern, pulled on the rope, and Frank was pushing me. And he had a hold of the railing with one hand, or pushing, hell he couldn't hold his feet hardly on that ice, but he was doing pretty

good. And they finally got me up there, and they put me on a gurney. Well they tried to --
- I was soaking wet, you know, cold, and they tried to, got my clothes off and kind of
washed me up. And I probably hadn't had a bath, you know, for three or four days.
(Laughter) And they put me on this gurney and put a blanket over me. And I was waiting,
and Dr. Smith and the nurse over there was fixing the cast, fixing up the plaster of Paris,
whatever it was, make a cast with.

And they, young Dr. Weare came in and he, "Got a broken leg, huh?" And,
"Yeah," I said. And he reached under there, and he picked my leg up, it was laying there,
I had it laying there, they had a pillow under it, you know. And he just picked it up, about
10 inches off of the pillow, and it fell over, kind of, it was swollen up, that big around, you
know. And it kind of fell off to the side, and he said, "Yeah it's broken." And he just
dropped it. Oh, I just about passed out again. God that did hurt! If I could have ---

RUSS: Killed him, you would have.

PAUL: If I could have kicked him with that other leg, oh --- But anyway they had to put
three different cast on that leg, you know, the swelling, it swells so big.

RUSS: Oh yeah.

PAUL: But he said, they x-rayed it, and he shook his head after he had it on there, and he
said, "I don't know," he said, "I hope it," he said, "it looks like it's pretty well in line." He
said, "The swelling has pushed it back fairly good, you know." And he said, "It looks like
it's, it will knit the shape it is in right now." Well that night it kept swelling. Swelled some
more until I just couldn't stand it.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: I was ready to pass out from pain. And the thing is, the hospital was full, and they
had to take me down to my sisters. My sister "Ted" and Dell were living in town, and I

was living out at the ranch see, New Diamond Ranch. And they had an apartment there, and they took me down there. She had to get up about; oh it was three thirty in the morning. And she took a pair of scissors, and she kept a splitting the back of that, well on the back of my ankle and down below the heel until she split it clear, and it just popped open like that, you know. Oh, that surely felt good. I'll tell you that was a relief. It still hurt, but I mean that pressure.

RUSS: Oh yeah, that's terrible.

PAUL: It was just, my toes, you know, well it was just swollen and just sticking every ---

RUSS: Yeah, ...

PAUL: --- direction, looked like it was that wide.

RUSS: Yeah, feels like you want to explode.

PAUL: Oh, they was about to split, burst. And the next morning they had to take me back up and they put another cast on. Then they had to take that one off, and put on another one.

RUSS: How about your, that time you were up in the mountain and you hurt your back and you couldn't get out.

PAUL: That was, I was running the sheep camp for Joe Fine and Stringer that time. That was in 1934, I was 24 years old. I had my homestead going through there. And I had, oh Matt Morgan was helping us, he was Joe Fine's, he was a brother-in-law to Joe, and he used to run the lambing camps. Run, kind of foreman over the sheep camps. But Joe --- he got to where he, to be an alcoholic. And Joe wouldn't put him in this year, and so he put me in to run the lambing camp up there.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And I had Ora Hayes, and Offenhauer Hayes, Matt Morgan, and Harry Buck was

the night man. He'd ride around the sheep at night and keep them on the bed ground, and the drop ... And he put out, they cut willow sticks and put white flags on them and stick them out there, you know, and kind of scare the coyotes, just to come out around, out a ways, three or four hundred feet away from the sheep.

RUSS: Oh, okay.

PAUL: And then he'd ride around and shoot a rifle once in awhile, and kind of keep --- sometimes sheep will pull off, you know, kind of a moonlight night why they'll leave the bed ground and go and graze.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And they didn't want to scatter lambs all out there. Of course it's hard to get those baby lambs in a bunch. So they'd hold them all there and then, he'd sleep in the daytime, and even in a tepee.

We'd camped; I'd set the camp right down in the creek bottom, in Bridge Creek Canyon. And, but it was on a little high spot, a ridge up above the --- it was about 40 feet from the edge of the slope; it goes down to the creek. And ordinarily you can jump across that creek, but it was raining when I moved up there, but it quit for a few days. And then all of a sudden we had the darndest rainstorm you ever saw, just a cloud burst. And the canyon was, that, where you could jump across the creek, it was only six or eight feet across, you know, shallow on both sides. You could jump it and maybe not get your feet too wet. It was twenty feet deep! And there was rolling trees, great big old washed out junipers, and there was dead cattle, and horse, I mean everything washing down. Stumps, it just plowed out those canyons, the water was so --- And it washed all the creeks out, all through, out of those creeks in the mountains.

And it rained for four days. It just kept, stayed high. Well anyway I had, I wanted

to move camp up higher. And it was raining, and I took off, my pack string had, my mules had gotten loose, broke the hobbles and got with the horses up on the top of the rim, back up on the plateau up there on the ridge. Got with the wild bunch. So I brought the rest of the pack string down to the main camp there and tied them up, and got on my saddle horse and away I went. And I finally, when I got up there the wild horses took off, and so did the mules, following right behind those mares and colts. And I finally, they went over and hit a trail through that scab rock country. It was rocky, awfully rocky up on those ridges. All the soils washed away off the, come down into the canyons, and down into the valley. And, but they'd step on a big slab rock there, as big as the top of this table, and it just set there on edge, that's just how soft it was. Big chunks, great big.

And finally I caught her, well I was just lucky I caught her when I got up within 15 feet of her, and I threw a big loop and I caught her right around the neck down low. But I just took dallies and stopped, and then I turned around, and turned her around. She didn't want to leave, but she was crazy about those mares and colts. But a mare, being a mare mule why she naturally, you know ---

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: She was crazy about those colts. So she broke the chain between her hollows, leather hollows, but I didn't stop. I just headed right back and went, got, I come in just below the camp, but I was up on top, and I came down towards ... a canyon there, and camps down here. And I come off the rim here, and then I had to go up here about, oh an eighth of a mile and here was the camp right here. Well I got almost above, I followed the trail along after I got down towards the bottom I angled across and come down, kind of angled it toward the camp here, and sitting in the canyon. And I quick, crossed the little, where the water was pouring off the rim rocks, and running down where it had for many

years, kind of a little dry creek bed, and there was junipers, a row of junipers there. And I went through that, and I had an embankment, not quite as high as that trunk, yeah, just about as high as that stove. My horse had to lunge ... And then about the time my horse jumped up on there, the mule went behind a little juniper here about seven feet high. And I, of course I had dallies, and I tried to get it off. And everything was wet, and I'd been lassoing calves that spring, and I had rubber bands, you know, from an old inner tube, stretch around there so you don't have ... but it makes ridges, pull it in, you know. And it bound right into that, around those grooves in the saddle horn.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And they didn't come off, and the mule when he pulled into the juniper he pulled back, and then the juniper, you know, and my horse before I could --- I tried to get my dallies off, and it wouldn't come, my hands was cold. And it broke the tug on my saddle on the right hand side. That's where the, you know there is a ring right up underneath your, on your saddle, right up underneath your stirrup leathers.

RUSS: Yeah, right up, okay.

PAUL: And there is a tug, what we call a tug.

RUSS: Where the belly ... goes onto it?

PAUL: Yeah, a wide piece of leather goes up through that ring and then it's doubled and goes through your cinch ring down here.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: On a hook or --- Well it had worn quite a bit and it broke up there right where the ring had worn it some, why it broke, and broke the tug on that saddle. And I just shot off backwards, just like that, in those rocks, right in that creek, and big boulders there. And I hit right here at the coupling in my back. And now the bone is deteriorating. It broke that -

-- when they x-rayed me they, it had broken, fractured one vertebrae and crushed another one. And I had a big blood clot in my back, and a big cut, big gash down there.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And bleeding, and the back of my head the same way. I hit a rock, hit my head on a rock, and knocked me out. But my horse trotted on down without any, just dragging the bridle with him, straight. And Babe Sitz was in there, and cooking some breakfast. And he saw my horse trot by and go down to the back ... and he come out, and he saw that mule standing up there. So here he come, I guess. And he said he came right up there. And that mule was still, see it was hanging; the rope was still on the saddle horn.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Well the mule was still standing there hung up in that juniper. When he tried to back out, well it hung up on a juniper limb and he was just standing there.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And I was laying there knocked out cold. And he thought I was dead. A little herder, a drop man herder was across the canyon over here, he saw it happen. And as quick as he saw it happen he ran up to a tree jam where the junipers had rolled down, and they finally blocked and made kind of a dam up there.

RUSS: Yes.

PAUL: And he had been coming across there to camp the day before, and all night it had been raining, and it was still dammed up there, hadn't washed out. And he got wet; he'd get wet clear up above his waist and up to his shirt pockets coming across there. But he came across, and he and Babe came up there and carried me down to the camp.

Well he saw it happen, and so he started immediately before Babe did. Because he ran up, and he was about to the dam when Babe came out and saw my horse trotting

down ... They was telling me about what happened? And they carried me down there, and I kind of came to. I knew that somebody was carrying me, and I didn't know, and I was hurting so bad. And I remember they carried me to the tent, and I heard Babe say, "Be careful now don't bump him against that tent pole." And they was trying to get me in the tent. One of them had me underneath the arms, and the other one was carrying my feet, I guess, that's the only way they could get me down, I don't remember. But I heard them say something, and then they got me on my bed. And they took my clothes off of me, got me under the blankets.

And then Harry Buck heard the commotion and he got up. He was sleeping in the tepee up above the main camp there. And he'd been in the World War I, see. See this is 1934.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And he was about 60 something then, and helping us up there. And he had worked, been in the ambulance business, medical ---

RUSS: Medics.

PAUL: Medics, yeah. Paramedics in the army. And he knew a little something about ---

RUSS: First aid.

PAUL: --- broken bones and everything else, first aid. So he come in, and I was just coming to, and he said, "You're hurt pretty bad," but he says, "we're going to get you through this." And he says, "I'm going to clean you up a little bit." He says, "You're wet," and he said, "I'm going to leave you covered up here and get some warm water and wash you up a little." He said, "You got a lot of blood on you." So he rolled me over, and oh that hurt, you know. And he washed my back and, "Gee," he said, "you got a big cut in your back," and he said, "the back of your head." And my neck, I couldn't hardly move my

head, you know.

So he washed me up and he had some methyrate or iodine and he put some of that on there with a, I don't know what it was with, I don't have any idea, a piece of cloth I guess, or maybe it was cotton. But he put some of that on me and he said, "I'm going to bandage you up the best I can." And he got a dishtowel, clean dishtowel and cut that up and made a couple of bandages. And then he wrapped --- he didn't have any tape, so he made a string out of one and he tied it on there because it was bleeding a little, quite a bit, you know. And he put me back in bed, and then he poured a drink of whiskey down me. Matt always, that's the reason Matt --- Joe, but Matt had, he stashed some liquor in his suitcase when he come up there. So he came in and he brought that bottle of whiskey in, and I was kind of thankful for that. I was just laying there, just shaking, I couldn't quit.

RUSS: Yeah, in shock, sure.

PAUL: I was shaking like that, and then I'd quit, and then I'd shake again. And the next day then I found out I was paralyzed.

RUSS: Oh boy.

PAUL: Paralyzed, my legs was just numb. Paralyzed clear to the toes, couldn't move a thing. And old Harry rubbed my legs, and pulled on them. He says, "I'm going to do something," he said, "we can't get you out of here," he said, "the water is too high."

Well what had happened, the little herder took off a foot, he run down, clear down to Bridge Creek Bridge down, right next to, just in the valley, into the valley. It was about six miles down there. And it was just a lake out there clear to the P Ranch. It washed, filled that whole valley with water, I mean, and then washed the bridge out. And there was such a torrent of water going in there, into that lake down there.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Spilling out of that canyon. And there was still trees and stuff, you know, washing, rolling down.

RUSS: Yeah, sure, yeah.

PAUL: And he couldn't swim, and he said he was --- "Oh," he says, "I couldn't swim that, no it's too big," he says, "too deep."

RUSS: Yeah, cold too.

PAUL: Oh yeah. And, so he came back. But the next day he tried it again, and he got word over to the, he made it across. And they tried to come up with the boss, and the ranch boss, Joe Fine and the ranch boss, Roy Clark, tried to come up in Joe's car. And they got about three miles up there and got buried, couldn't make it any farther. So they went back, after they dug out, took them all day long to get dug and get turned around and back.

So they tried to come up in a wagon, and they got over to Little Fir, where it runs into Bridge Creek. And it was so full of water they couldn't cross. Still just roaring down there just like a, you know, too deep, you couldn't even swim a horse across it.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: So they turned around and went back. So they didn't --- finally somebody came up on the other side of the canyon a horseback. And they had brought some, this little Joe had brought some stuff back with him, some kind of medicine to put on a wound, you know. I forget now what it; I don't know what it was. Probably iodine or whatever they had.

RUSS: Mercurochrome.

PAUL: And anyway old Harry Buck in the meantime he put socks on my feet, and he rolled them down. And then he hooked the fingers in the rolls inside my, you know, on my

ankles like that. And he set down at the bottom of the bed and he'd pull, just like putting me in traction.

RUSS: Yeah, yeah.

PAUL: I could move my arms, and I could get a hold of the tent pole up here. And he'd set there and just pull steady on my back. And it was kind of a relief to have him pull on them that way. And I finally went back to sleep while he was pulling on them one day. And of course he had given me another drink of whiskey too, but not that much, I didn't drink that much. But it was kind of a painkiller I guess.

And, well sir I laid there eight days, and I begin to get a little feeling in my toes. Begin to feel like it was just needles in my ---

RUSS: Tingling.

PAUL: Yeah, in my legs. And my legs begin to hurt. Then I could wiggle my toes a little bit, and old Harry when he come in, I said, "Look at my toes." And I could move my toes a little bit. And he said, "We got her done." He said, "You're going to be alright." That was the eighth day, I was getting scared, you know, then.

RUSS: Oh I guess.

PAUL: I was spooked, and they couldn't get in and get me. And I couldn't walk. I was really scared. And so that helped. And then they made me a pair; they wanted to get me up on my feet. You know laying there, I had an awful time.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: You know you had to go to the toilet sometime.

RUSS: Oh yeah.

PAUL: I'll tell you, it was a chore, I'll tell you, getting things done. So we, they made a couple of crutches out of juniper limbs and put sheep pelts, they doubled sheep pelts and

tied them on there with strings. And so I, they could stand me up. I couldn't walk, but they wanted to get me up on my feet. Well you know you lay there eight days you get helpless.

RUSS: Yeah, oh yeah, it hurts, sure. Yeah.

PAUL: And boy that was a relief to get up on my feet. Well that just changed the outlook of the whole world.

RUSS: I bet.

PAUL: So in about, well I was up there fourteen days; they got me out on the fourteenth day. And I had to go out on a saddle horse.

RUSS: Oh, oh.

PAUL: But they bound me up, lifted me up bodily and put me on a horse. Took me into town and x-rayed me. And the Doc said he couldn't do anything. He said the bones had started to knit already, because I just laid there. Harry said, "You just lay still, don't you try to move."

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And they --- he'd kind of turn me with a blanket, just a little bit sometimes, you know. My back would get to burning and hurting, you know, and he'd roll me up on my side just a little bit. But he said, "Don't move a muscle, let me do it." And he knew what he was doing. So that --- it was a relief to get out of there.

RUSS: How long were you in the hospital after that?

PAUL: Oh they sent me up to Portland. He couldn't do anything. He said, "They are knitting, it looks like the bones are knitting together." It ... right in the coupling, right on my hipbone. Right there in that, and that's what's deteriorating today.

RUSS: Oh. Yeah, go ---

PAUL: Go ahead.

RUSS: This is fine, I'm fine.

PAUL: Anyway we were gathering cattle up there between roundups.

RUSS: Up in the top of the Steens?

PAUL: Not up high, no it's down below hunting camp.

RUSS: Oh.

PAUL: Down below my homestead.

RUSS: Oh, okay.

PAUL: It's what we call; it's the forks there at Willow Creek and Cold Spring Creek. And they call it the Paiute Corral. And they used to be Indian, an old Indian camp there. There used to be arrowheads and, you know, you'd see where they'd camped and everything. And, but it was a good place, the cattle would come in there to drink, come down in those canyons, there is a fork there.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And then it ran on down into the desert meadows, down on the Riddle Ranch. So Gladys and Lavonna, ... the young couple I was telling you about ... Temple's wife. And she was carrying a little baby, and Janet, or Jewel was, had the little girl walking along. Lavonna was in the, in front of Janet and the little girl. And I had told them I had never seen any rattlers there at the Paiute Corral, which I hadn't. And we got down --- I was, we were bringing cattle in from all sides. There was four or five of us riding, and we'd pick up, you know, and get cattle started. And we gradually bunched them and brought them in, and then we'd corral them.

And there was a big old bull come down, bellowing down on the hillside, right above the corral a ways. Lavonna was scared of cattle anyway, and she saw that big old bull

and she was watching him, walking along, and there was --- and Gladys said, "We'll go over in the shade of those Quakers over there by the corral and we'll have our dinner there." Gladys had a big basket she was carrying, sandwiches and all kinds of food, cold drinks and stuff, lemonade. And we, Gladys said, all of a sudden Lavonna let a scream out of her and stepped backwards two or three steps and just stood there, just froze. And then she started crying and Gladys set the basket down and ran over there. And Janet was just a young girl, a kid. Anyway she said, "Mama it's ---"

... (Pause in tape)

RUSS: They moved out after that.

PAUL: Went out to get some eggs out of the chicken house. And it had a chicken run outside the chicken house, netting wire around it. And it was as high as this ceiling, eight feet high. Keep the, try to keep the coons out. Anyway Stell went in, Gladys was waiting out there, and Stell went in with a bucket and she was going to get the eggs. Stell walked, had a little door right next to the corner of this pen, scratch pen we called it. And she just walked right in, and then Gladys looked down and saw something move there, and there was a big rattler curled up, just inside the chicken house, in this, inside this little gate.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Here is the gate right here, and that rattler was right here, and she walked right past it. And then of course when Gladys screamed, "Stell there is a rattler right behind you, be careful, jump --- don't step on him!" Oh, she didn't know which way to look. Then she looked at Gladys and saw where she was looking, and she saw that rattler down there. She almost fainted. Wilson, Stell Wilson, Stella.

And then of course she, you couldn't have got her out of there, if you're going to

say you're going to shoot her, she wouldn't come out. (Laughter) So Stella said, "Run get the gun, get the gun and kill him." And she backed over towards the chicken house, and of course she was looking everywhere then. And she broke the, the chicken house made out of willow, it was just posts, you know, about a foot apart, all the way around, then tromp willows, cut willows, long willows and stacked them right in and made a chicken house out of them. And then they threw brush and anything, hay and everything on top for a roof. And anyway she got a, broke a stick on it, brittle willow sticks. And, but she wouldn't kill him, she was afraid to get that close.

Gladys ran and got the .22 and here she come. She come back and she shot at him, and just kind of barely cut the skin on one side. And then she shot again, and it took her awhile to get another bullet in, it was a single shot. Finally though she hit him, and he started crawling and he crawled inside the chicken house. Stella was over in this side of the pen then, she stayed out of the chicken house, she didn't want to get cornered in there. RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: So finally the snake went out of sight, and he crawled up in those willows someplace inside the chicken house.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And so I --- then Stell came on out, and she got over there, and there was a bunch of little rattlers laying there.

RUSS: Oh boy.

PAUL: She was coiled up, and had those. And you know they say, I never saw them do it, and Gladys says, "I saw those little rattlers crawling out of that snake's mouth." Maybe they do crawl in there.

RUSS: Well, that I don't know. She might have carried them. They give live birth. Which

it's possible she could have carried them.

PAUL: Yeah, but you suppose they pick them up that way and carry them, move them afterwards or something?

RUSS: Well somebody said something about that and I can't remember what it was.

PAUL: Well I don't know. But she said those little rattlers, some of them crawling out of that snake's mouth.

RUSS: Well I think they move them that way.

PAUL: They probably do.

RUSS: They give live births.

PAUL: Yeah. I know they give --- and some snakes lay eggs, you know.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: I don't know which kind, I don't recall.

RUSS: Well rattlers are ...

PAUL: Yeah.

RUSS: I think most non-poisonous snakes lay eggs.

PAUL: Yeah.

RUSS: Well tell me about Joe, that's next.

PAUL: You know I'd been maintenance man for, and, while Joe ---

TAPE 3 - SIDE D

...

PAUL: --- while Joe was working for Swift and Company. And then I also, for Gill Cattle Company I worked for him. I had a ranch, dry land ranch up there, and I raised dry hay and I drilled a 404 foot well up there in Catlow Valley, fourteen inch casing. And had it, I

had to file with the state for a permit, you see, for under-ground water. And they allowed me 200 acres under that well, to irrigate under, you know.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And we went down 87 feet of sandstone, and then in the bottom of that Catlow Valley, out in, we were just out of the, kind of in the north end, and west side. And 87 feet of sandstone, and then we hit old black basalt. And he pounded on that for weeks, and weeks, and weeks, and months. (Laughter) And finally got down, and he broke, he got down there and all of a sudden his bit just dropped, 16 inch hole. And the water come up. We hit water right on top of that black basalt, just enough to drill with. And it just made it perfect to drill on down, you know, you had to have water. And they, that way you could dip it out, see.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Sand and dirt and gravel that he turns up underneath his bit. And then it came up about 50 feet of the top. You could hear it just a coming up. We thought sure we was going to have an artesian ... And then it finally --- you see what happened. It come up and then it dropped down to about 60 feet from the top. What I think happened he hit an underground river, because when that got down so close to that --- say here is the underground river, and there is a lot of basalt here.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And the bit was pounding, and it broke off some of this, when it got down close to the channel.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Broke off a lot of scab rock, we don't know how big. And it probably kind of blocked the water and it caused the water to

RUSS: To back up.

PAUL: Evidently. And it come right up, you see, that rock had blocked it. And then gradually it kind of, probably washed it away, I don't know what happened. But then it dropped back down gradually to 60 feet and just held there. And they put a pretty good-sized pump on it and it didn't affect it any.

Anyway, they --- I was telling about building that rock house. They hauled the, had the prettiest rock, colored rock, kind of a reddish sandy colored rock from Nevada up there. And they come out in big layers. And we made that house out of that kind of rock; it was kind of a sandstone. And he built a three bedroom, nice big house there. And I helped this old, his name was Ferguson, we called him Uncle. Unc, we called him Unc. And he was a little ... small man, and a worker, and he knew what he was doing, I'll tell you.

RUSS: Good stone cutter.

PAUL: He was a stonecutter, and a stonemason.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And he cut, he made all his own tools, axes, you know, and grind them out so he could cut these rocks, make a nice design on them. He'd cut in, you know, we'd make that, border all the way around, and then the face of it, you know. Stone house is still standing there. And then I helped; we built a big porch on two sides, full length of each side of the house, the front and one side. And he had an office besides three bedrooms, and then big living room, and kitchen, and dining room, and bath.

And then he built a, had Roaring Springs. The water came up, way up there, out from underneath the rim; way up on the hillside about 500 or 600 feet above the house.

And then there was eleven from the house up there to the springs was about, was about 1,100 feet. And they bought enough for a redwood pipe, 10-inch redwood pipe. And it was wrapped with, come in section, and it was wrapped with copper, heavy copper wire. And he bought enough of that wire, and I poured concrete up there around three springs and run them all into one big tank. And then put in filters, and this, cemented this redwood pipe into that box.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And then we run it down there, and he bought a, I went with him and we went down to Nevada, there was an outfit that advertised a Pelton wheel they had bought new, and they didn't put it in, and they wanted to resell it. Well it was, it run a 7 1/2 K.W. ... this Pelton wheel did, generator.

RUSS: Uh huh.

PAUL: That would be 7,500 watts, 7,500 --- no, 750 watts.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: It would run 750, or it would run 7,500 watt bulbs, wouldn't it? Yeah.

RUSS: 75 watts.

PAUL: It was a 7 1/2 K.W., kilowatt.

RUSS: Oh.

PAUL: Anyway, they put in a, it run the lights in that new rock house, and the cook house, and the rock cellar that I built for them up there. Had three compartments, and they had a walk-in cooler in one end. We cured meat, and the next one, and they had a root cellar, potatoes, and vegetables and stuff, and canned goods and everything in the other one. And, just off the cookhouse, off the back door there. And it run a little heater there for the cook. And they had two heaters, one in their bedroom, and one in the office there in the

rock house, and in one bunkhouse.

And then we built a new bunkhouse. We didn't, you know, we didn't have --- he didn't want to short the cookhouse and their house to put it in the new one. So we had a big heater in that one. And then we had water pressure from the same pipe, run water to all the --- we had showers in the bunkhouses and everything.

I put a, built a powerhouse there, cement wall up that high, and then boarded on up, and then open ceiling. And then all rock foundation for the Pelton wheel. And I built a spillway for it, out of there, you know. I forget now what you call it; I can't call it right now. Anyway it's a cement square, cement box for the wastewater to go out of. I reduced it down to 4 inch big valve, 4 inch valve on the --- it was a 10 inch pipe, redwood pipe. And then reduced it down to 4 with a valve. And then I had a, put a deal on there and screwed a, put a cap on that. And then put another faucet or valve on here that we could adjust. Cut it down to about a three-quarter inch stream. And those little cups on that Pelton wheel, you know that would go so fast you couldn't see it. Oh, that water pressure, man, that was --- talk about a pressure. And it just make that generator hum. And it's still operating, still there. That's been in there 50 or more years.

RUSS: Holy mackerel.

PAUL: And then I, of course I helped build the bunkhouse. And I've helped, you know; build extra rooms on the different ranches, and all that kind of stuff. But it was kind of fun building that rock. I really liked it, you know. We fixed up kind of a shade there, canvas, so we could work kind of in, during the hot days.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: And of course it was --- and a big porch, was 8 feet wide, all the way on two sides. Later on, after, O'Dell bought it, Gill Cattle Company ... Robert S. O'Dell out of San

Francisco. Well his home is in, oh, kind of a Spanish looking, I've been there.

RUSS: I can't call it. Santa Monica?

PAUL: No, it's up the coast a little ways out of San Francisco. No, I can't --- Anyway, he owned the Cliff Hotel there in San Francisco. And he had a big penthouse right up on top of it.

RUSS: Yeah.

PAUL: Robert S. O'Dell. And he and his wife --- she was a Goodrich heiress.

RUSS: Oh, ...

PAUL: Yeah. He was a car dealer back in Des Moines, Iowa. And he ---

... (Pause in tape)

PAUL: There was a, she inherited 7 million dollars one year, 5 million another year. She had a lot of millions.

RUSS: (Laughter) I guess.

PAUL: And a loan company was about to fold, and they bought in, 18 million dollars into it, and got control of it, controlling interest. And he immediately, they had loaned --- Who is that?

CHILD: Grandpa.

PAUL: Yeah.

(END OF TAPE)

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HOWARD-PURDY HISTORY

It was the spring of 1908 when Raymond George Purdy came into Eastern Oregon. His first job was working for a large livery stable in the north part of John Day. His next job was riding shotgun for the stage line from John Day to Burns. Then eventually he started driving the stage from Prairie City, John Day, and Canyon City to Burns. Albert Cross and Jim Keaton were two of the other stage drivers.

Mervin Purdy, Ray's eldest son, also recalls that his father worked for a rancher that serviced area ranchers with a stud horse from the John Day area to Prineville and back. The stud was so mean that to keep him from killing his saddle horses, Ray had to use a pole to lead him with, so that the horses were unable to get near each other.

Mervin also mentioned that he had an Aunt, Caroline Purdy, known to everyone as Carrie, who was buried in Canyon City Cemetery in 1911.

He also said that there was a stage stop in the north end of the Purdy meadow, as well as eventually a school, which sat in the southwest end of the meadow in which all of the Purdy children attended. Before a teacherage was built, some of the teachers stayed

with the Purdy family.

In 1906, George Laythrop Purdy, his wife Hattie Anna (Bacon) and children Ray and Caroline, left their homestead in Geneva, Nebraska, and set out for what Hattie called "greener pastures", and went to Bismarck, North Dakota. Then heading up to Saskatchewan, Canada, on to Alberta, ending up in Edmonton where the children finished their schooling. One time while waiting for their father to settle, Hattie took the children, Ray and Carrie, to Chicago to the World's Fair. Here they had the pleasure of meeting and shaking the hand of President Teddy Roosevelt.

During the early years in the Harney-Grant Counties, Ray found many types of work. As mentioned, his first job was working in a livery stable in John Day. He also worked in the mines in that area. Later Ray started buckarooing for different outfits in the area of Suplee, Paulina, and in the John Day Valley for Miers and Brown, the Lemons Ranch, and Hugh Listers. One of the first ranches he worked on belonged to Charley Trowbridge. He also worked in the Silver Creek area for the well-known Bill Brown.

He returned to Montana in about 1914 with a partner, to Folsom, Montana. They worked for the local ranchers, acquiring a house and barn. (The partner built the house, and Ray built the barn.) Since they each needed use of the house and barn, they shared buildings making this a working partnership. Ray homesteaded in the Cut Bank, Montana area in 1915.

Ray worked with William Fleming Howard for a time. Later married Ruth Avalon Howard, daughter of W. F. and Madora J. (Thraikill) Howard, on December 12, 1920 in Conrad, Montana. They returned to the homestead in the North Central Montana area of Cut Bank, Montana, where they lived until 1928 when they returned to Oregon. They arrived in Burns in a 1917 Model-T Ford with a Ruxel axle.

William F. Howard had moved to the area in 1921, leaving his homestead in Cut Bank, Montana behind. W. F Howard had worked as a train engineer. He also worked in construction, and helped build the Glacier Park road. Madora Jane and daughters cooked for the construction crews along the way. The Howard's endured many hardships during their two-year trip to Oregon. William had the misfortune of getting his foot broken, which made it impossible to work, so Paul, then 11 years of age, but telling the bosses he was 14, took their teams of horses and worked with the construction crews to clean and build canals for irrigation waters.

Arriving in Idaho in 1922, they helped clean up the debris from a sudden flood, which had washed out roads, lands, and orchards. They worked for six days non-stop before another crew was acquired to help. Mrs. Howard and daughters set up a kitchen and cooked and fed the crews.

In 1923, the Howard's continued their trip going to Baker, Oregon, and on to Pendleton, Oregon, where they attended the Pendleton Roundup. A brother-in-law, Winn Adamson, participated as a rodeo contestant. Winn Adamson, once working with and knowing the artist, Charles Russell, was a main character on bucking horses in so many of Charles Russell paintings.

While in Pendleton, William heard of a contract being let out to gravel the main streets of Burns, Oregon, and having worked in construction the better part of his life, sent in a bid for the job and got it. On the way from Pendleton to Burns, they arrived in Canyon City, just in time to enjoy the "62 Days Celebration," being held there at that time.

Once arriving in Burns, the Howard's set up camp on the south side of Burns, then scarcely populated. This area is now heavily settled and near the present Filmore School.

The gravel was laid down main street with a home constructed flatbed wagon, with board side boards, and loose floor boards that were pulled a little at a time to dump the gravel in a row, and then with the use of a fresno, the gravel was spread out. This was all done with the use of Mr. Howard's teams of horses. Howard's son Jack worked helping his father on this job. They also helped to move the rodeo bleachers from the Egan Street area to where they sit presently on the west end of the grandstands. William and sons also worked with the Henry Otley Construction crew that put in the railroad fill through the Burns area to Seneca. Mrs. Howard worked as a nurse for Dr. B. F. Smith for several years.

Several of the Howard children lived in Harney County, including daughters Ruth Purdy, Lucille Frances, known as Ted, married Dell Witzel. Hazel, who was married to George McUne, Willatana, better known as Billie, and worked for a long time at the Rexall Drug Store for Orville Corbett. Sons Jack, who was married to Bessie Kribs Lewis, sister to long time teacher at Burns Union High, Jim Kribs, and Paul. Jack and Hazel both died early in life leaving families behind.

Mr. Howard was a talented and hardworking man, who found many forms of work. He was an excellent carpenter, and helped build both the Crane and Burns High Schools. The Crane School burned in the 1940's. The Burns High School is now known as the Lincoln Junior High School.

Paul Howard worked for many years in the Frenchglen-Steens area. As a young man, and while still attending school in Burns, Paul purchased a stranded Model-T Ford from Roe Davis. Roe was able to put a new wheel on the car for him.

Paul worked for the Bradeen Brothers, and herded and fed sheep on the Steens for Joe Fine and Stringer. He lived for some time on the P Ranch during his 17 years of

working for Joe. He homesteaded a section on the Steens, above the Riddle Ranch. Paul ran a guide service with Veltie Pruitt on the Steens. They built cabins, trails, and corrals for their horses and pack strings. One of the trails on the Steens was named for Paul Howard. Paul also worked for Rex Clemens, who owned the Riddle Ranch, and a hunting lodge near the Steens Mountains for a number of years.

Later, Paul purchased the Frenchglen Hotel and with his wife Gladys, ran it for a few years before moving out of the area.

Another son, Jim Howard, youngest of the 13 children born to William and Madora J. Howard, also worked with Paul and helped his brother with the guide service. Paul enrolled Jim in the Crane School, which he attended while helping work on the Steens.

Even though the Purdy family moved everything to Burns in 1928, they kept their homestead in Montana, as well as some acreage in Nebraska, the homestead of W. F. Howard. They acquired some land in the Silvies Valley, where William Howard and old Dan Jordan, father of Carroll Jordan, and grandfather of Dan and Tom Jordan, local insurance brokers and realtors, built a nice log home on the property up against the mountains. The Purdy's moved onto the ranch, and lived in a tent while the home was being constructed in 1935.

During the earlier years of grazing stock on the forestlands, many buckaroos used to use the Purdy fields to hold their stock in during the fall roundups.

To Ray and Ruth Howard Purdy were born 6 children. Mervin Compton, Madora Rae, and George William, who were born at Cut Bank, Montana; then came Donna Marie, Wayne Howard, and Floyd Clinton who were all born in Burns.

Mervin was a 1941 graduate of Burns Union High School, and had a military examination in 1945. The family needed his and brother George's help on the ranch and

they were given deferments to help the family with the ranch. Wayne served in the Coast Guard, and Clinton with the National Guard. Later George served his time with the army and was shipped to Germany, before his discharge after two years.

Madora moved to the John Day area, and married Jim Pope. Well known in that area as "Purdy", Madora was a happy person that worked in various stores there and in the Mt. Vernon Mercantile. She took on the job of cleaning, restoring, and planting trees at the Moon Creek Cemetery, where she now rests.

Mervin remained on the family ranch to work, where he still resides to date. Many memories remain behind the walls of the log house.

Along with Mervin, Wayne and Clinton live on ranches purchased by their father and mother. Wayne and his wife Carol ranch on the old Walter Cross place, in the Silvies Valley area, which has much history of its own. And Clinton and his family, ranch on the original Tom Baker homestead. There again are stories to be told.

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