

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #399 - Sides A

Subject: Harley & Faye (Gregg) Jones - With Video

Date: January 18, 1994

Place:

Interviewer: Conly Marshall

CONLY MARSHALL: ... so this is Faye Gregg Jones. Faye, where was you born and raised?

FAYE JONES: I was born at Nampa, Idaho. Lived there until I was 17, and then we moved up to Harper.

CONLY: Uh huh. How many was your family, your immediate family, brothers and sisters? Were they around, mostly around Harper, or were they scattered all over the world and back?

FAYE: Well Don and Frank lived at Harper, and we lived there. Ida lived at Bend.

HARLEY JONES: ... Norm and Carol lived there for a while.

FAYE: Norman and Carol lived at Harper. His family was at Harper until he went into the service.

CONLY: Uh huh. Was --- I'm just going to --- Was there a number of grandchildren, or your aunts or cousins, did you have quite a few cousins ---

FAYE: Around Vale, there were lots of them.

CONLY: How many?

FAYE: Oh geeze.

CONLY: Half of Vale?

FAYE: Half of Vale, I think.

CONLY: Okay, all right. The reason I do this is because, like I told you, this is where we lose the line.

FAYE: Uh huh.

CONLY: Is by not getting your name and your family in like that. Well, if you're not going to tell me anything more, then we'll go to Harley and talk to him for a minute.

FAYE: Okay.

CONLY: If you're not going to say anything, let's just go with him. And Harley, where was you born and raised? Where was you born?

HARLEY: Catlow Valley.

CONLY: In what year?

HARLEY: 1917, June the 21st.

CONLY: Uh huh.

HARLEY: First day of summer, and the longest day in the year.

CONLY: Yeah. Now I'm pretty sure that I got everything from Katie, but I'm going to take you through it. How many brothers and sisters did you have, and where were they born, or do you know?

HARLEY: Oh god, you're getting beyond me now. They was all borned before my time.

CONLY: Okay. All right then I'll jump on Katie for that.

HARLEY: Carl was born in Lakeview, and then the rest of them was born back through Kansas.

CONLY: Yeah, Katie --- uh huh.

HARLEY: She'd know about that than me.

CONLY: All right. How long did you spend in Catlow Valley?

HARLEY: Well I didn't live there too long. I was pretty tiny when they left; I was probably

3 years old, or something like that when they left Catlow.

CONLY: Then you, where did you head for, try to get out of the country?

HARLEY: Oh, they was heading for Idaho. Dad figured on they was going to farm over in Idaho. And they got to Voltage and Alfred Marshall conned him into staying for the winter, and we ended up staying.

CONLY: Uh huh. Now was he a carpenter by trade, Harley, or was he just a jack-of-all-trades and stuff?

HARLEY: He was a jack-of-all-trades, but he did lots of carpenter work. He was, you might say, he was a journeyman carpenter because he could build anything, and he had built a lot. But he didn't follow it altogether, he did everything.

CONLY: Do you happen to know, I asked Katie this, I keep going to Katie in trying to think of what I said, if he rebuilt the store after it burned down?

HARLEY: Did what?

CONLY: Rebuilt the store after it burnt down?

HARLEY: No.

CONLY: No, he didn't, huh.

HARLEY: W. R. Jones, no relation, that's Calvin Jones' father. That was my schoolteacher, she taught school at Voltage, Mrs. Jones. And after the store burnt down W. R. Jones rebuilt it. He was a carpenter too.

CONLY: Do you have any idea in some of this stuff, that Jones rebuilt the bridge at Rocky Ford Lane? It had washed out, and rebuilt, so that they could take the mail through.

HARLEY: Well I have an idea that was Calvin, or maybe his dad, W. R. Jones.

CONLY: Uh huh.

HARLEY: Because Calvin worked for the railroad as a bridge engineer for years, building bridges.

CONLY: Uh huh. Now did you go to school at Voltage all the time, or did you leave, did you take off?

HARLEY: No, I spent one year at Frenchglen, the rest of the year, or the time, I went to school at Voltage. And the year Mrs. Jones taught, she was an elderly lady, I was the school, her and me. I learned more that year than I ever learned in any three years. By the time half of the school was over, I run and slid on the ice, I was going down to play cards with the folks, your granddad's, I fell down and stuck a 2 x 4 in my kneecap, a little pointed piece. Well that laid me just straight as a board for two months. Never went to the doctor, just had nothing, it was just stiff. So I would go to school, they'd take me down on a sled, and I finally got so I could push with one foot, and Mrs. Jones would come back to my seat. By the time half of the term was over we had all of the books finished and memorized, and we went on over to the capitols and all the other countries of the world and stuff. I knew more by the time that spring come with her than ---

CONLY: You couldn't get up and run off.

HARLEY: No, we just studied.

CONLY: You was nailed down.

HARLEY: We just studied anything, and she made it interesting. And something, every country we'd study and think, always said I learned more than any three years, that one-year. Of course I was the school, just her and me.

CONLY: Now I remember, I've got a picture of you, and Carl, and Mabel Lees and the teacher.

HARLEY: Ethel Benson.

CONLY: By the name of Mrs. Robinson. Was she, did she marry George Benson?

HARLEY: That's right. Ethel McGee.

CONLY: Oh that's right, McGee.

HARLEY: Ethel McGee.

CONLY: Okay. And she married George.

HARLEY: She married George Benson.

CONLY: Okay, I said Robertson. I'll do that quite a bit. Faye, is he a lying some, are we getting him all ---

FAYE: No, I think ---

CONLY: All the truth out of him?

FAYE: I think he is doing okay.

CONLY: Do you think he is doing a pretty good job? Was you, you step in ---

FAYE: I wasn't there. (Laughter)

CONLY: Well that's a good reason for not being ---

HARLEY: She was a very, very fanatical, religious woman, a Nazarene. In fact I think she kind of lost her apples for a year or two. But she was over at Diamond, and they'd had a big dance, and this was before she taught, and she was trying to convert some of the cowboys. And one, I think it was Slim Merryfield, the next morning after the dance, and old Slim was feeling pretty rough, and they was getting ready to start back to the P Ranch, wintertime. And she said, "Mr. Merryfield, wouldn't you like to have some sunshine in your soul?" "Well," he said, "that would be alright, but I'd a dam sight rather have moonshine in my belly." (Laughter)

CONLY: You bet. Ain't going to let them get the best of him, for sure. Harley, back for as long as you can remember, how many houses, how many people, what was Voltage?

HARLEY: Well it was your granddad, and he had the store, and then our house up a little ways from there, and that was actually Voltage.

CONLY: Okay.

HARLEY: The next nearest place was Ray Marshall's, but that was close to a half a mile.

CONLY: Yeah.

HARLEY: So that was the size of the town.

FAYE: Where was Dad ...

HARLEY: Oh he was way on down ---

CONLY: He was way down where we was at, down at the lake down there. And we'll get down to him. Well that's the way I remember it, you know.

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: Other than I remember that my mom filed on a homestead right directly across, or she did something, and there was a little building, a little tiny building, a little shack. Apparently it was there; maybe it had burned down right away, I don't know.

HARLEY: Where your dad and mom lived?

CONLY: I think so.

HARLEY: That was on Alfred Marshall's land.

CONLY: Okay.

HARLEY: That was just across from the schoolhouse.

CONLY: Yeah, kind of little ---

HARLEY: And you was just a little whelp ...

CONLY: Yeah, uh huh. But that was Alfred Marshall's then.

HARLEY: That was his land.

CONLY: That's wasn't, she didn't, the reason I went in ---

HARLEY: I'm sure, I think the original post office and land, and the land this building was on was Alfred's homestead.

CONLY: Harley, then let me ask you, do you know how far south that land run? I went over there the other day and taped it, and the fellow that has got Dunn's place, he has went almost a quarter of a mile past Voltage on out there.

HARLEY: Well what he had, where his line fence was, was right straight up from the post office between it and this little house. The road run right up there, and that was Alfred's fence. And then he went a ways and that Ed Anderson place, it was over there, it was in an L shape like from where Ray lived up to Ed's place, and then back south, and Alfred's run up there just a ways, I don't know, a quarter of a mile, I guess. And it was in a block that he had fenced.

CONLY: Uh huh.

HARLEY: Now I don't know if he had more land there that he didn't have fenced, but I would think he had his whole place fenced.

CONLY: Well I think they sure did, on account of the PLS, on account of the Company and stuff.

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: And trying to keep the cattle and stuff out.

HARLEY: Cattle. I remember your granddad telling when they first moved there, and he built the first cabin, before they had the store. He said he come out of the house and there was a big old Company range bull out there on the prod. And by ... Alfred said he took me three times completely around that house before I could get stopped to go in the door. He said, Never run so fast in my life," because he said, "them bulls them days wasn't there a fooling," he said.

CONLY: Yeah, they were pretty vicious, I'll tell, that's for sure. You remember, Harley, you and Carl used to cut us kids out them tin horses, and we had wagons and all?

HARLEY: Oh yes.

CONLY: And we'd get out there in front of the store, south of the store, and we had a lot of ant hills and stuff out there. And you used to make them tin horses out of old tobacco cans.

HARLEY: Uh huh.

CONLY: God, what did you --- all of them go someplace, nobody ever kept any?

CHARLEY: Oh probably when we left and growed up. They're still

---

FAYE: What did you find up there that day?

CONLY: Well that was one of our ranches, I think I could still go to it. I'll bet it's still there.

We had little ranches built out through the sagebrush, and little rock corrals, and everything. CONLY: You bet.

HARLEY: I used to know where a lot of them ---

FAYE: Well there was something was ---

HARLEY: But I know one that I could go to, because I showed Faye one time we went up there. And of course we had stick horses then, we rode stick horses.

CONLY: Yeah.

HARLEY: Head on them.

CONLY: Well we went over there, Velda and I, and we picked up that gas, that old Imperial gas sign, its got holes punched all through it. But it was the one that come off of the store, so we brought it home.

HARLEY: Uh huh.



CONLY: I don't know whether it was buried in the dirt, or what it was, but that old Imperial gasoline, it can kind of tell what it was ---

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: --- from that, so --- Okay, now, going from there down towards the lake, and down where we lived, my mother and dad, and my brother and I, down towards the mouth of the river, do you remember the ... pens and that type of stuff down there?

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: That George had down in there?

HARLEY: Yeah, it was way down along the river, and he, all built with chicken wire, and ... and he gets up and he put grain in there and get the geese and ducks to go in, then shot --- I remember us kids down there helping him and catch ducks and geese, and he put a band on their leg then.

CONLY: You bet. They used to have to dive down and get that corn and grain and when they come up they were inside them pens, and they'd put them in little pens. Now do you remember, I've got pictures of you down there, a picture, two pictures --- Dad Wilson, he was right past the corrals towards the river from the house. Was that his property, do you know whether that was his?

HARLEY: No, it was George Benson's. George owned that place over there, some on the other side of the river, and this stuff, and that house old Dad Wilson lived in actually had belonged to George Benson.

CONLY: So that, the way I understand it, from where Ray Marshall, that fence line went north and south, straight down through, and there was one big gate about halfway down, and then on down three-fourths of the way there was a gate that turned to go to where we was at. And it went past the Benson, Griffin, Griffin --- no, that's not right.

HARLEY: No.

CONLY: Gibson.

HARLEY: Gibson

CONLY: Place was on the knoll.

HARLEY: Jim Gibson. Uh huh.

CONLY: And so that all must have been one piece of property going clear down until it come across the lake and down in there, do you think?

HARLEY: Yeah, probably. I don't know just exactly how they --- but I know that corner is over on this side of the river, and that cabin was there. And they always said it belonged to George Benson.

CONLY: Well you know my grandmother, paper and stuff they had, she wrote down some stuff and said that Benson and, oh what's his name, Joe McLean, that that house down there on that knoll was part of the Marshall, Alfred Marshall ... Whether that is true or not, I don't know. He got skinned on it real good. Pointed that gun at him or something, and run him off. Some other people got in on it. I don't know what it was.  
(Laughter)

HARLEY: I remember your granddad telling us one time, he said, Bill Marshall lived there on the place where you was, where you lived there.

CONLY: Was that his place?

HARLEY: I think it was originally Bill Marshall's.

CONLY: Did he sell that to Jones? Did he sell that to Jones?

HARLEY: Probably.

CONLY: Because my dad bought this from Jones.

HARLEY: Yeah, I think it was originally Bill Marshall's place, he lived there. And he had a

little boat. Well he took off and went somewhere, going to be gone awhile, and your granddad, the brother, he wanted to use the boat so he went down and he said the boat was in the house, and the door was locked. But he said it was just a little old straight key that was there anyway. He got the key and he opened the door and here is a cardboard sign up, laying up against the boat. He said, "William knew I was going to come get that boat as soon as he left." He said, "This lock was put on here to keep honest people out." He said, "Thieves would come in anyway." (Laughter)

CONLY: Oh, he stopped him right --- well that sounds about ---

HARLEY: He said he knew very well I was going to come get that boat.

CONLY: Yeah. ... Now you spent some time there, and you hunted rabbits. I'm sure you made a living, shot them, snared them, and stuff like that. I've got a picture of a rabbit drive there. When did you take off and go to herding sheep, or go to buckarooing, or getting out of there and head for the mountains?

HARLEY: Oh, when I was about 14.

CONLY: Uh huh.

HARLEY: That's when --- of course I worked for wages a lot before then, and haying, and stuff like that.

CONLY: Oh sure.

HARLEY: But when I really started working steady I was 14, I think.

CONLY: Now did you go up to herd sheep, or did you go and do some-thing else?

HARLEY: Well I first started, I hayed a lot before. But I first worked in lambing, and then we'd come back and work in haying and stuff like that. But ---

CONLY: You kind of followed a drop band, or something like that?

HARLEY: Yeah. And lambing, of course, you took the drop band out and went plumb

through until shearing time.

CONLY: Who was you a herding for at that time?

HARLEY: Lauserica and Gray.

CONLY: Now were they primarily on Home Creek, and Spangleburg and Three Mile, and out in there, or would it be up on the mountain?

HARLEY: Well no. They had Dry Creek; their shearing corral was at Dry Creek, the old George Sebring homestead. And the last time they was running 20 bands of sheep plumb over into Pueblo Mountains, and all over the top of Steens Mountains, and just any and everywhere, wherever they --- you know then they could go, they'd rent a homestead or two and then they could have open range all around it.

CONLY: Un huh.

HARLEY: At that time they claimed there was a 100,000 sheep summered on Steens Mountains.

CONLY: You know we got to keep this real quiet, don't you know that. BLM gets a hold of this we're dead. (Laughter) But that's between me and you and the gatepost I think.

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: But --- well there was quite a few other sheep men around there.

HARLEY: Oh yeah.

CONLY: Did you work for any of the others, or just primarily Lauserica and Gray?

HARLEY: Well I worked for them more until I --- the State had a band of sheep and I run them for two or three years, for the State.

CONLY: What year was that? Now that, you're talking about the Squaw Butte Experiment Station and stuff like that?

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: What years would that have been?

HARLEY: Well let's see, I was 18.

CONLY: Figure that fast, Faye. We'll get the calculator out.

FAYE: Well he was born in '17.

CONLY: Okay, we got that nailed down. And you used to take them, the sheep, up on the mountain and then take them back to Squaw Butte and down to ---

HARLEY: Well I went from the Experiment Station by Burns to Squaw Butte, and from Squaw Butte and went back to Ironside Mountain to the top of Steens Mountains.

CONLY: Did you go over Jack Mountain, or did you stay on the out-side of Jack Mountain?

HARLEY: Went right on the side of Jack Mountain.

CONLY: Uh huh.

HARLEY: Across it, then we went, come back down and come by Frenchglen and straight through with the sheep back in the fall, by The Narrows, and back to the Experiment Station, and then up to Harney.

CONLY: Harney?

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: What did Harney have to do with the Experiment Station?

HARLEY: Well I had, they had grass.

CONLY: Grass or something.

HARLEY: Had pasture leased there.

CONLY: Uh huh.

HARLEY: Some of them ranches, we had two or three of them around on the foothills there, running the sheep.

CONLY: Well I know that Zabala and some of them apparently rented pasture from Ray or the folks, or something, down there on the lake a time or two.

HARLEY: Uh huh.

CONLY: Now, how do you remember that country? Was the grass, no grass, sagebrush, no sagebrush, juniper? What did --- as you remember it, what did it look like?

HARLEY: Well you know in my time it would be hard to say any different than --- of course they planted crested wheat grass and stuff. But one year if we had a good wet year we had plenty of grass, and if it was a dry year it was down lower. But just the name of the grass had gone down, or coming up high in my time, I couldn't do it.

CONLY: Well it was a trick of Mother Nature, don't you think?

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: Really, when the rains hit you had some, when it didn't you didn't.

HARLEY: But there may have been places that was overgrazed, that in certain spots, I couldn't tell. No doubt any country is, and some places it is not. But ---

CONLY: Well it is right today.

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: We got these fences, we put them out here in a fence corner and it's overgrazed. You can't do nothing about it. You got water holes, and they fence them in ---

HARLEY: Mother nature controls more of it than the seasons, than any man did, I'll tell you that much.

CONLY: Uh huh, uh huh. Now, you was a hunter and fisherman, most of your life, I know you was.

HARLEY: Well ---

CONLY: You wasted a lot of shells on them rabbits and snare lines and stuff like that.

HARLEY: Didn't waste them all, I got some. (Laughter)

CONLY: You made enough money. Do you remember when you killed your first deer, and where?

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: In what year?

HARLEY: Oh, you're getting back now, kind of ---

CONLY: Well I'll help you out. I killed mine on Little Fish Creek, according to my grandmother, when I was 7 years old, in 1933 or '34. We got pictures of that. But I've yet to find any pictures, except of swan, geese, and stuff, prior to that time. And I felt like that if they took pictures of swan and geese, and fish, why didn't they take them with deer, so I'm puzzled as to when the deer --- and they were up on Steens Mountain, there was no deer down there in Voltage.

HARLEY: Huh uh.

CONLY: I can remember that.

HARLEY: The first deer that I ever killed, probably I killed up on Emigrant Creek.

CONLY: Uh huh.

HARLEY: I was probably about 15, 16.

CONLY: Uh huh.

HARLEY: But it was just because there was no deer around where I was.

CONLY: That's right.

HARLEY: We all shot, we could shoot, but ---

CONLY: You had to go someplace else and do all that. That's why I'm puzzled about, you know. And I don't think there was any antelope down there where we was at, around Voltage.

HARLEY: No.

CONLY: There might have been, but I don't think there was.

HARLEY: You might have seen one come through there once and awhile, but it wasn't there all the time, or we'd have butchered him.

CONLY: Yeah, yeah, a guy would have, you know.

HARLEY: Going out toward Jack Mountain and that country, you got in antelope country.

CONLY: Yeah. Yeah, but they were back out.

HARLEY: Yeah, way out further.

CONLY: ... Well if you ever remember for sure, I want to put it down. Because there is something wrong with these pictures.

FAYE: No cameras, Conly.

CONLY: Well why would they take pictures of swan and stuff. See I've got pictures of swan back in 1910, and 1911. I got big beautiful pictures of swan and duck.

FAYE: But so many people didn't have a camera then, back then.

CONLY: Don't know, you know. I'm not saying one way or the other. What I'm trying to find out is when the explosion or the deer started. You know we went through; we went through the best of the deer hunting as far as I'm concerned during the '50's. In the '48's and '50's, you know, through there. We sure as heck went through --- but I don't know about prior to, you know, that. And I'm trying to find if anybody is. Everybody I've talked to, like Tom Howard up here, he said he never killed a deer until he was 48 years old, and he is 84 years old. So you can put that together. And he was living right here on Mule Creek, close to the timber. So there apparently wasn't any deer at that time.

Now I'll go to, you was a fisherman. Of course you wasn't very big in '22, I don't think. I've got some pictures of fish caught just below the turnout to the Sod House, fish



caught at that time, '22 and '23, and they're monstrous.

FAYE: Well hello. (To dog)

CONLY: I mean they are monstrous.

HARLEY: Oh yeah.

CONLY: I mean they're monstrous. And I asked Katie about it, and she said, "Oh no, we didn't fish." But she said, "Dad went over and turned the water through, to put on the garden, and then when he shut the water off," he said, "he'd bring a whole bunch." And she said, "They were big fish, you know, big old fish, you know." HARLEY: Well, you know, very few people fished, your granddad fished a little. And we had a little, Denver had an old tobacco can with some fish line in there, and of course there was Carl and Stub and I that, taking up, we went over to the river. And a two-foot trout wasn't a big trout then. They got some a lot bigger than that.

CONLY: And you know there again, I go to the paper, my grandmother said they spawned in the spring branch.

HARLEY: Oh, I think they did.

CONLY: She said they spawned in the spring branch. Now what? Just a couple miles out of that lake, and then they just went in there and --- but she said there was thousands of them, she wrote it down that there was thousands.

HARLEY: Well I ... spring ---

FAYE: Well even your ... where they had big fish.

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: And they, you know, but that was in '22. And then like I say on these ducks and geese and stuff, I got lots of pictures, they took lots of pictures. But there is a time when the deer hunting started, and when it started then everybody ---

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: We just went on through, you know, taking pictures.

HARLEY: When they put the dam in there at the Sod House and they would flood them fields, and then of course those low swales and spots that would be full of water, and then they would go back down, then you used to go over there and get out there. But I remember when I was just a little fellow, your mom and Katie, and Iris and all of them tucked their dress up and waded and go in the pools, there would be big trout in there, chasing them around.

CONLY: Chasing them around.

HARLEY: Yeah, just left after ---

FAYE: Wouldn't that be nice now.

HARLEY: Huh?

FAYE: Be nice.

CONLY: Well it is amazing, you know, like I said I've got these pictures. There is one 27 inches long, and weighed eight and a quarter pounds is what my grandmother put down.

FAYE: Uh huh.

CONLY: And that was caught in 1922. And they had pictures; I've got quite a few pictures of that. You know those things are big. FAYE: Yeah.

CONLY: The brother and I caught some salmon down at Grants Pass when we went down there, and I'll tell we --- them damn trout were crowding them old Chinook a little bit.

(Laughter)

HARLEY: Well the biggest trout I ever caught in my life, we was fishing over there on the Blitzen, at the Sod House Dam, and George Myers was the teacher, man, and my mother was there, a whole lot of them, some of your folks. And right below the dam there was a

big box; they had planked it in somewhere where they had the dam.

CONLY: Yeah.

HARLEY: And we'd fished in this, it was deep. Washed out with, water come over it. But they got to catching fish, oh they would be a foot or better, and have their tails and fins eat off. And they got to saying there was; several had seen a big fish.

FAYE: You ...

HARLEY: ... So mother had made a net with a rake handle, I think, and made it out of chicken wire, and then took mosquito wire inside to catch minnows. And I think I was in the second grade, and I'm down there dipping in there to see if I could catch a minnow. And I got Mr. Fish, it was 32 inches long.

CONLY: Is that right?

HARLEY: And I got him out, and got him up pretty well toward the top of the bank, and I was on top of him, and he got out of the net, and I was going back in the hole with him, riding him, he would have drowned me. But the schoolteacher's wife, she come down, Mrs. Myers, and I remember she grabbed that big fish by the tail with her long fingernails and she brought him out. The fish was pretty near as big as me.

CONLY: Yeah.

HARLEY: But that was the biggest trout I ever caught in my life.

CONLY: So them fish was going down into that lake, and growing up, just kind of like that deal over at Barton Lake here a number of years ago.

HARLEY: Oh yeah. No doubt.

CONLY: You get down there in that big water and they can grow like flies.

HARLEY: No doubt there was trout a lot bigger than that, if people caught them, because they didn't fish in the lake. And not very many people fished.

CONLY: No, apparently not.

HARLEY: None of the ranchers, they lived there all their life, they never fished.

CONLY: Yeah. They never fished, and you know I'm not sure how many of them hunted.

HARLEY: Very few of them hunted.

CONLY: Now I hunted for my family when I was at Beulah, and over here.

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: I hunted, I broke many a law, you know, but that's what we survived on. And by god I'd do her again if I had to. But we had lots of game.

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: You know we had lots of game. So I don't know. They say that you fisherman ruined that fishing hole, didn't you know that? FAYE: They did.

CONLY: They did. I agree with you. We're going to get after him, we'll become environmentalists, and we'll fix him up right.

FAYE: ... all full of mercury, our lakes. No fishing there.

CONLY: They're pretty bad, huh?

FAYE: Uh huh.

HARLEY: Well they say in the Owyhee, and Owyhee River that it is definitely dangerous to humans. Steve went there ---

FAYE: Brownlee Reservoir too.

HARLEY: They are putting up big signs on the Owyhee River, boy don't eat the fish.

CONLY: Do you believe it, Harley, I'm not, you know --- Where do you think that stuff come from? Do you think it was put in the ground by sprays or what?

HARLEY: Well they say it --- I wondered if some of the mining up higher in the mountains, over towards Silver City they leech some of that, and use mercury and stuff.

CONLY: You bet they did.

HARLEY: Now the game commission just says it's coming out of the rocks.

CONLY: Oh is that right.

HARLEY: Leeching out of the rocks.

CONLY: You mean back up toward towards the ground, and back up in through there where all that rock has been moved and stuff?

HARLEY: I don't know just where above the Owyhee, unless over there towards Silver City they had that big mining outfit.

CONLY: Well that could be, you know.

HARLEY: It might be that ---

CONLY: I come through there ---

HARLEY: --- some of them creeks might run down this way and stuff, because they use mercury and cyanide and stuff in reclaiming the gold.

CONLY: You bet.

HARLEY: But it ain't, they just discovered it evidently, or at least they just let it out now. But them fish is, if this is right, them fish has had mercury for a long time.

CONLY: Well I would think so, because that mine down there has been shut down, see I was in Duck Valley and I come through, back through there in '44, and that thing was shut down at that time, 1944.

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: So that would have been, other than that new mine down there, I don't know, maybe it would have been ---

HARLEY: I don't know, that big mine that is over there towards Silver City, above Jordan Valley, there is lots of people lives at Jordan Valley that works there. Whether that done,

Jordan Creek, or whatever it is, it might bring some of the water from that country because they have big ponds where they settle there and stuff. I don't know how far that stuff carries, or anything about it. But they don't, the mercury breaks up something, and then it turns into a different --- it's still mercury, but it's something that dissolves into ---

FAYE: Something like 20,000 years to get it out.

HARLEY: --- the fish.

CONLY: Faye, did you do much fishing down around Harper and Westfall, or did you even --- until you met him and went off the deep end with him. (Laughter) Did you ---

FAYE: No, I went with my dad and Bob, they fished a lot. But I never, we just went along, you know.

CONLY: Catch them with your hands, or something like that.

FAYE: Harley and I started fishing the year we were married.

CONLY: Uh huh. Back up Willow Creek, and back up toward Bendire and that country there. Did you go up in there?

FAYE: Oh, we went up into Westfall.

HARLEY: Anywhere there was water.

FAYE: Any place.

CONLY: Uh huh.

HARLEY: Beulah, Owyhee.

CONLY: Wasn't there a Bridge Creek or something out there?

FAYE: Bridge Creek, I don't remember that.

HARLEY: Well Bridge Creek is up the Steens.

CONLY: I know Bridge Creek is, but I thought that, back up ---

HARLEY: There is Cold Creek.

CONLY: Yeah.

HARLEY: Indian Creek, Cottonwood Creek.

CONLY: And they all had ---

... (Unrelated talk about the dog)

CONLY: Well Faye, was your folks into bees?

FAYE: Honey bees, yeah.

CONLY: Hone bees. Do you know when they started? The reason I ask that, Percy Davis over here was in the honeybees, way, way back when, I guess.

FAYE: Well my father started ---

HARLEY: Well her father was back further than that, because his father ---

FAYE: His father was in them too.

HARLEY: Running bees before him.

CONLY: So that's years and years and years of honeybees.

FAYE: Uh huh. My whole life.

CONLY: I'll be darned. Did they go broke like the rest of us?

FAYE: Not yet.

CONLY: Was they able to survive?

FAYE: Yeah.

CONLY: Because Percy Davis was ... down, he made twice as much money as old Milt.

FAYE: Now they are like these migrants, they take the bees into California, into Canada, into North Dakota.

HARLEY: For pollenization.

FAYE: The boys have the big --- see the old honey ... on Moses Lake.

CONLY: I hear on TV where they are running short on pollinating bees.

HARLEY: They are. The government ---

FAYE: The worst thing with the bees now is the money.

HARLEY: --- working again them, instead of for them, and they don't know it that when they run out of honey bees we run out of food. Because without the pollenization you don't have anything.

FAYE: Well any of the bees have this ---

WOMAN: African honey?

HARLEY: Well no, it's ---

CONLY: Well the killer bees, I guess, they're coming up through Arizona, and back up and through.

HARLEY: Killer bees are gradually coming through, this way.

CONLY: But isn't the government trying to kill us off at all food.

FAYE: Oh yes.

CONLY: I guess I shouldn't be that way.

FAYE: All the agriculture things.

CONLY: All agriculture and all types of things ---

FAYE: Cattle, everything.

CONLY: Everything. You know they're not leaving anything out.

HARLEY: They're paying \$25, \$30 a colony for bees for pollenization.

CONLY: Is that right.

FAYE: They are in California right now, their bees on almonds.

HARLEY: They take them down there on the almonds, then oranges and stuff. And they can't get enough bees. And then from there, when they get there they go straight up into the orchards in Washington. And they make more of the pollenization by far anymore,



because there is so much row crop and so much spray, if you depended strictly on just making honey, you ain't going to last very long.

FAYE: Well and then from the pollenization they go into North Dakota, and Canada.

HARLEY: Yeah, and then you get, you get a good crop of honey where they're letting China ship honey in here and stuff, so much cheaper than the guys can raise it.

CONLY: That's right.

HARLEY: And the funny part, the big honey company down here in California, I forget how many tons and tons and tons of honey they shipped from China, and then when they checked it all out about a third of it wasn't fit for human consumption.

CONLY: Uh huh.

FAYE: Too much bacteria.

HARLEY: There was bacteria in it.

CONLY: Yeah.

HARLEY: From China. But they're selling it a lot cheaper than the guys can raise it here.

CONLY: Yeah they can, but there is just no way they can touch ---

HARLEY: The more you know about it, you don't want --- the China-man won't eat it, so they send it over here. Why should we eat it?

FAYE: Last year, wasn't it, was a beautiful year for honey, but no price.

HARLEY: But they cut the price way down, because you could buy foreign honey so much cheaper than the --- demand, some of them had to ... they had a beautiful crop. But you get nothing for their honey, hardly pay for raising it.

CONLY: Harley, I know you done quite a lot of haying and stuff down on the lake. Tell me a little bit about your haying. Did you get kind of mad at them guys putting you on the

nets and stuff like that? Did you think that every Jim wagon driver was deaf?

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: They couldn't hear anything. And the stackers would scream.

HARLEY: Right.

CONLY: They'd pull somebody off the end of the --- but those old four-horse bucks, do you know when they come to --- Did Pete Caldwell make the first ones, or do you have any idea?

HARLEY: I don't think so. I don't have any idea who made the first. Well the first rudder buck, and the other four-horse bucks, probably went back further. But then the rudder bucks, they had them when I was a little kid, so they went back further than me.

CONLY: Do you think they brought them in from back east someplace, Harley?

HARLEY: Oh, I don't think so. I think they developed in the West. Because the East never had, put up hay like that. I think they were developed strictly in the West.

CONLY: Well, you know, I don't know whether you remember, maybe you wouldn't have, my grandma, Grandpa Alfred and Mary they shipped hay from Crane for \$8.00 a ton back to Missouri. Now how much they shipped, I couldn't pin it down, but they shipped some clear back to Missouri. That was during the drought.

HARLEY: Did they ship it baled, or in bulk?

CONLY: Apparently it was baled. And how they got it baled, there again I don't know, Harley. They had to have baled it, god they couldn't have stuffed that much hay on there, could they?

HARLEY: Well, you know, when I was pretty tiny, and my older brother Denver, and another fellow baled hay over at the Sod House, the Company had a hay baler.

CONLY: Oh they did?

HARLEY: It was a, it was a kind of a ---

CONLY: Was it a stationary?

HARLEY: Well I don't know whether it was stationary or not, but it baled with baling wire, they used wire. And it was a bigger, bulkier looking thing; I couldn't even remember just what it looked like. But it was the first one in the country, and Denver and another guy baled quite a lot of hay for the Company. And the bales ---

CONLY: Maybe that was about the same time, you don't know.

HARLEY: Yeah, it was all baled.

CONLY: The way I understood it, it was about in '30, '31, '32, kind of the start of the drought, you know. Apparently back there, Missouri and Oklahoma and back through there they were hurting pretty bad. But I run across it, and they sold it for \$8.00 a ton. They got \$8.00 a ton and they were so happy. Do you remember when the ZX moved their cattle over on the lake?

HARLEY: Yeah.

CONLY: Now I didn't know nothing about that, and I thought boy that was something, they come clear from over there.

HARLEY: I think ... you had to have been awful little then.

CONLY: I didn't know it, I'm reading it. You've got --- a lot of this stuff I'm a reading, I'll tell you that.

HARLEY: Yeah, I remember quite a lot about it. I was just a little kid, but that was the wildest bunch of cowboys. They was all riding broncos, and they all carried a pistol. And they'd take off in the morning and there would be two or three of them would walk back, or they'd have to go get them, or get another horse for them, because they'd lose their horses, or get bucked off.

CONLY: Yeah. And they didn't have somebody to pick them up.

HARLEY: The funny part, old Matt Davies was, had sheep, and he was down there, I don't know which place, I think it was Springer's, or ... or somewheres up where Matt was a feeding his sheep. And the ZX had bought hay at the adjoining place ... or from Springer's, or someone. But they was within shooting distance. Every time old Matt would go out with his sheep ---

CONLY: I don't mean to be doing that to you ---

HARLEY: One of his cowboys would be out there under the ... if they all had one. So they'd get, fire a few shots over all --- of course it was too far for a pistol, but they could shoot, and he could hear the bullet. They did that a few times, and old Matt went back to the house and got his 30-30, and the bunkhouse was plumb ---

FAYE: Are those trout, or salmon? (Looking at pictures)

CONLY: Yeah, those were caught at the Sod House. Those are the same as those others. You might know this fellow; do you know him, Lambert?

FAYE: From Little Valley?

CONLY: No, he was apparently from, he was up there at --- he's got a ... on the back of it. I suppose maybe he run the guide service or something, maybe, I don't know.

HARLEY: Oh, I've heard of him, but I don't know him.

CONLY: You know I really don't know.

HARLEY: Yeah. Old Matt Davies went back to the house and got his 30-30 and he emptied about two guns full into the ZX bunkhouse. I guess the ZX cowboys was coming out every direction, and rolling. He didn't get any of them, but ---

CONLY: Warmed them up good.

HARLEY: --- they didn't shoot over at Matt anymore.

CONLY: I'll be darned. Now do you know that one, where all those people are there, Harley, I wanted you to look at that. And you got to look clear in the back end, that's the only reason I saved that picture. Sitting on the stool with my granddad.

FAYE: Is this on the refuge?

HARLEY: On the refuge?

CONLY: Apparently it is right by the springs there someplace.

HARLEY: On the right hand corner back there, there is ---

CONLY: A fellow by the name of Lours (sp.?), O. J. Lours from down at Ontario took that picture there.

HARLEY: He was a druggist.

FAYE: You need to take this on your ---

CONLY: I'm going to. See that's right behind, see that's the old granary, they're coming right behind the house. They're driving these, now Harley might be in on this, I don't know.

HARLEY: No.

CONLY: On this rabbit deal?

HARLEY: No, that was before my time I think.

CONLY: But see that's the old granary, that was right on the Cato line, right next to the Cato line.

HARLEY: Let me see this.

CONLY: I know it is, I looked that thing over time and time again, and figured that it had to be. But I didn't know, you know, you can't tell any of those people.

HARLEY: That was before ---

FAYE: Look at these, so many ...

HARLEY: Yeah, I've seen them like that.

CONLY: You bet. Was you in on those rabbit drives out on Cole Island and Pelican Island when we put the fences around them out there, or was you gone up on the mountain?

HARLEY: No, I wasn't there then.

CONLY: See we went out there and did both Cole Island and Pelican Island after they had put that dike up.

HARLEY: Oh, no, I wasn't there.

CONLY: You know after they put the dike up and dried that up. We went out and just built a wing in there, and god almighty, thousands of ---

HARLEY: Well Joe Cato, there is the old Cato place. They used to, he had a potato patch, and the rabbits would get in there, in his field, so Joe put chicken wire all around his, the side of his fence, on the lower side there, and then he built a pen in the corner of the wing. And old Joe caught lots of rabbits all by his self. Well after Katie and Bill leased that place, I went down the old fence was pretty well, and I patched it all up good, the holes, and lots of rabbits they'd come down into the meadows and stuff in the evening, be hundreds of rabbits. And I'd get on --- had a little roan horse, Stranger, I was just a breaking. I'd get on him bareback, and my dog, and Bill and Katie's dog, the old Cato dog, and I'd go for the ranch, and boy I'd wait until the rabbits got down there, and I'd take off a hollering, and dogs were barking, and as high as they could run. And I'd ... them rabbits up, and ... into that fence, and shut that gate. I made more for several weeks catching rabbits in the evening than I did in my haying wages.

CONLY: Did you know my brother and I bought our automobiles, when we went down there, we'd come back up here and spend some time in Trout Creek and back up here,

and we bought our pickups and cars and helped ... through school. We was the rich ones, god, we was filthy rich and we did it all with five cent rabbit ears, I'll tell you. Oh we made maybe, what, fifty cents a day during haying setting net, or something like that, I'm not sure. But that was only --- now this is my great --- that's the start of all the Marshall clan in here. And there you go.

HARLEY: Stub and I ---

CONLY: Her name is Mills, but from there it has disappeared. You've got no way of knowing who her sisters was, who her brothers was, who her anybody was. I've got a picture in here of her and Edwin, not Edwin, the old man.

WOMAN: Edwin ...

CONLY: At Fort Harney. I've got a picture of them. But her side is lost.

FAYE: Yeah.

CONLY: But where they come from --- and that's the reason I did what I did to you, you know. Maybe that don't sound right, but I think you can go back, and later on down and --

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HARLEY: She ... this?

CONLY: Huh?

HARLEY: She said to Alfred and Mary from ---

CONLY: Her name was Mills.

WOMAN: Susan B. Mills.

CONLY: Susan B. Mills.

WOMAN: And she married Edwin Marshall. She was the mother of Conly's great grandfather ...

HARLEY: Her name was Marshall here.

WOMAN: Uh huh, yeah, she was a Marshall. She married into the family. Have you still got that thing on?

CONLY: Yeah, you bet it's on.

HARLEY: Can you make it out? It's ... and Mary Marshall from, what's this first name here?

WOMAN: Alfred.

CONLY: Edwin.

FAYE: No, her name.

HARLEY: Well what's her name? What is it?

WOMAN: Susan B. Mills.

FAYE: Susan B. Mills, but this ain't ---

HARLEY: But this ain't Mills, this is Marshall.

FAYE: Mother Marshall.

WOMAN: Yeah, she was Conly's grandfather's mother.

HARLEY: Mother Marshall. Uh huh.

CONLY: See this is --- that was the headcheese. He was buried at Fort Harney, but that's the only thing we got, see. See, that's her.

HARLEY: Well they must have had the old original place that Alfred had up at Harney. That must have been their place.

CONLY: God he died when he was in his 50's, so I don't know, Harley, I don't have no idea.

HARLEY: Well Alfred had a place at Harney, your granddad.

CONLY: Yes, I --- up ---

HARLEY: Rattlesnake Creek?



CONLY: Yeah, I read that.

HARLEY: I went up there with him one time, Carl and I, and he owned the place then. Oh, Myrtle Caldwell's brother, Andy Osborn, Andy had been --- him and his wife had been leasing the place. Always remembered it, because setting in the window was a ... fruit jar full of rattlesnake rattles. And he killed them all right in the place, in the house there. We walked out, Alfred and Carl and I, we was just kids, a ways towards the creek from the house, there was nobody living in the house then, and I think we moved two big rattlers out there ... we shot them with a .22.

CONLY: Oh, I think it was alive with ---

HARLEY: Boy that thing was ---

WOMAN: ...

CONLY: I don't know --- See I've got two or three of them, but apparently they were carpenters, and who the devil they was, I don't have no idea.

HARLEY: Have no idea.

CONLY: See that's where I'm stalemated. It's just like all of these people here; I can't help but think that these are Marshall's.

FAYE: Uh huh.

HARLEY: Well I'm sure they are.

CONLY: But how in the devil can you prove it. How can you say? And if they're lost, they're lost. Now there is a John Marshall that has got his name on there, and a lady by the name Robinson, Robinson.

WOMAN: His first wife.

CONLY: And then he left, and went down and married an Ada down in California. I don't know whether he just run off and left them, or just exactly what.

Well, I think we'll just call this a day for right now, and start over fresh some other time.

(END OF TAPE)

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