

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #440 – Tape 1 - Side A; Tape 2 – Side A; Tape 3 – Side A

Subject: Dedication of the Western Heritage Room

Place: Harney County Library – Burns, Oregon

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Recorded By: Pauline Braymen

JOLYN WYNN: I'm so pleased to see you all here. My name is Jolyn Wynn, I'm the Library Director of Harney County Library. And I do want to introduce Sandy. For anybody that doesn't know her, and probably all of you do, Sandra Crittenden is our Western History Room Archivist, and she is the person that really made all this happen. And so I just wanted to bring her up so you know who she is. Thank you Sandy.
(Applause)

We have been working on the project for about five years, going on five years, and we're so pleased that it is done. We have a wonderful grand opening celebration for everybody today. And we have a wonderful master of ceremonies that has lots and lots of experience doing this kind of thing. So without further adieu I would like to introduce Bill Wilber who will be our master of ceremonies for the afternoon. Thank you so much for coming. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: It's not only scheduled you have an introduction like that, because the only thing you can do is go downhill. We won't let that happen. It's my pleasure to

welcome you here also. Thanks for spending the time. I think we have a very interesting program that will be very enlightening for you, and you'll learn a lot about Harney County, and some history that you probably aren't aware of. How many of you are from Harney County? So there is quite a few that don't know the history of how the library was started, and how it was funded, and how the Western Room came about. And I'm going to share some of that with you. I'm going to read a little bit, and please ... that you won't get bored for a couple of --- oh probably ten minutes I suppose.

Well anyway thank you for being here for the grand opening of the Claire McGill Luce Western History Room. And we're particularly appreciative of Walt McEwen and Edward Gray, and I'll say some more about them in a second, for their generous donation of their personal libraries to start this five-year project. Jolyn mentioned in 2000 the idea of building the Western Heritage Room came about. Sandra was particularly instrumental in cataloging and putting [in order] what had been a wonderful collection of books. But they were hidden. They were covered up with old computers and books and all --- You can't hear me? Susan tells me that educators use these things all the time and get away with it, but obviously I'm not an educator. (Laughter) Now how is it, any better?

WOMAN: Now try. Talk to me. It's not working.

BILL WILBER: How is it, how is it, how is it. Thank you. Years ago when I used to make presentations around the country, buying and selling hospitals, one of the things we were really focused on is to see the room you're going to make a presentation in. Make sure all the audio-visual systems work before you start. So, what didn't you hear? (Laughter)

Well let me start out by saying that this podium is just the right height for me. When I first came back to Harney County, the Chamber of Commerce asked me to be the M.C. for their annual awards night, and I agreed to do that. However when I looked at the podium I was about like this. So I engaged a local contractor to build a new podium, but it was made for Bill Wilber so I could see over the top of it. And it works fine for me, but when you get a six foot two, three, or five inch guy up there getting an award bent over trying to read their script --- well Sandra, as I was saying, thank you for the hindsight. When she found out the significance of this collection, word got out that I was fortunate enough to be on the County Budget Board at the time and we challenged the court to do something about the collection because it was so valuable and so important to the history of Harney County. The Court agreed to hire an individual to appraise the collection and I challenged him by saying you find the appraiser and I'll go pick him up. And by golly they did it. So I had to drive to Redmond to pick this fellow up. Well the first clue I had that I was probably in trouble was he comes a walking out of the terminal smoking a cigarette. Having been in health care for thirty years, that's not good. The next thing that happened is when he got in the car, and of course he started talking about politics. Well I'm an acute conservative, and he was an acute liberal. And we drove directly to Burns talking about everything but politics. And in the end we ended up being good friends. The irony of that little story is: he came to the library, he was in here 30 seconds, and the first book he saw he picked up and he said that book is worth \$3,000. And ultimately he finished appraising the volumes and they are now valued at \$225,000. And then the county has insured them and I'm sure you'll get a tour of the room.

I want to recognize a number of people. It's important when we have a function like this. Some are here, some are not. I would ask you to raise your hand and be recognized. The Library Foundation, Carla Burnside, you here Carla? Debbie Ausmus. Beth Corcoran.

BETH CORCORAN: I'm here.

BILL WILBER: Stand up, stand up please. Helen Hardwick, I saw Helen earlier. Regina Cashen. And past board members Doug Jenkins, Cy Taylor, Laurie O'Connor, and Helen Patton. I suspect many of those people are at the Bird Festival. The Advisory Board, Karen Hendriksen, John Leehmann, Virginia Tabor, Suzanne Crowley-Thomas, Patsy Holbrook, Peg Ross, and Jack Drinkwater. Is Jack here today? Jack is a County Commissioner. Past Board members Bill Huber, Dick Demming, Dorothy Dulaney and Laurie Brown. Is Richard Carey, the architect, from North Bend here? ...

We need to acknowledge where a lot of the money came from to complete the project. The Ford Family Foundation, The Meyer Memorial Trust, the College Foundation, the Oregon Community Foundation, Henry Hellman Foundation, Russ Tucker Foundation, Autzen Foundation, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, U. S. Bank Foundation, Trust Management, Henry Luce III, and Monaco Coach. We especially thank the support of the County Court, Steve Grasty, County Judge; Jack Drinkwater, County Commissioner; the Mayor of Burns Laura Vancleave; Mayor of Hines, Ruth Schultz; Burns City Manager David Fine; and Matt Senick of Pacific Television.

Our order of process this afternoon is --- I'm going to read this information to you about Claire, and about Walt and Mr. Gray. Then we're going to introduce Mike Hanley,

since he is the nephew of Walt, and give you 15 minutes of fame, Mike. And then we're going to adjourn to go outside for the ribbon cutting. And then we'll come back in, and each author who is here will have fifteen minutes to talk to you about their books, or any thing that they want to.

A side note, yesterday I was in John Day and I was in the Outpost Restaurant and I saw this book on the table and it had something to do with dressing wounds. Having been in the health care business for years it attracted my attention. And I saw the name on it of Ted Merrill. And I was trying to recall, Ted Merrill, Ted Merrill. And then driving back yesterday I couldn't put it together, but today I did. And Ted Merrill is Dr. Ted Merrill, and I went to John Day as an administrator of the hospital in 1969, and I have not seen Dr. Merrill since 1969. So we got reacquainted this morning. Glad you're here.

It all began with a gift from the mother of film star William Hurt. Now how many of you know who William Hurt is? William Hurt lives in Diamond. I mean his kids go to school at Crane. And his mother Claire McGill Luce donated a share of the stock in the amount of \$1,000 a year to the library to keep it building. And beginning in 1971, her estate contributed \$25,000 in Time-Warner stock to the county. And that stock from 1971 to 1999 grew to over two million dollars in size. And so that money is in the hands of the county and the interest earned on the principle is what operates the library.

What you will see is 1,500 rare books collected by a saddle talking cattle rancher and a Eugene author, both lovers of romance, Southeast Oregon's wild high dessert, grasslands, alkalie lakes, mustang horses and petrified ... What you get when you see

these books is an amazing rich western history room that is the envy of any big city library.

Volumes of northwest history, many of them first editions, plus 434 oral histories of local pioneers and their families collected over the past 35 years. Within these pages is a cast of tragic, noble, and sometimes just plain bad characters, outlaws, cattle kings, fur trappers, explorers, Native Americans and pioneers. The books are primarily organized in a temperature and humidity controlled room that would seem better suited to the rough homes of the bunkhouse, shelf and saddles with Winchesters and bedrolls piled all around.

Claire McGill Luce was born in Andrews, Oregon. Now how many of you from that area know where Andrews is? It's in the south part of the county, and she lived near the Alvord Desert. Marrying Henry Luce III, who was the publisher of Time Magazine, and she had a life-long love of Eastern Oregon and was as I indicated in the habit of giving \$1,000 a year to the library. After her death the stock that was donated became worth over two million dollars.

Now it is kind of interesting, the county found out that they could not invest the money in the stock market. Now the rules or something are that they are not allowed to do that. And from 1971 to 1999 they had a stockbroker handling the account for them. So as a result of that, I think, great stewardship they made a lot of money. But when they found out it was illegal, they had to pull it out and just put it in a bank, to earn simple interest. It is my understanding that the county is considering giving that ... of funds to the Foundation, which could then invest it with the Oregon Community Foundation. And

they average about 12 percent a year on their own. So 12 percent times 2.2 million is a pretty good return.

The history room houses 1,350 books donated in the will of Walter Thomas McEwen, a Harney County rancher. And I'll tell you about Walt, Walter Thomas. He was born in Nyssa, and ranched throughout his life in the Harney Basin, and well-known history enthusiast he was always ready to assist another in a research project about his interest in western heritage. As I was telling Mike, our cattle ran across the fence from Walter's cows up on Stinkingwater Mountain. I can remember when I was a little kid, up the rim up there; we'd exchange cows and haul them back and forth. Always an excellent relationship.

Mr. Gray was a schoolteacher, Edward Gray. And he died at the age of 55, and donated all of his books plus his notes that he had made while writing four histories of Harney County. The fellow who did the appraisal was fascinated that Walter McEwen, a working cattleman and owner of one of the oldest ranches in Oregon had such a passion for collecting books and northwest history. McEwen spent 30 years buying from booksellers as far away as ... Brothers in London. And he had a real collector's eye; his holdings were very, very rich. Every book was hand picked, and he was actually buying on the international market. The western history collection has 125 volumes published before 1900, including the 1789 edition of *Voyage Around the World*, written by the 18th Century English navigator and sea captain Nathan Footlock. And the 1775 Atlas of the explorations of British navigator and explorer James Cook. This collection comprises an unusual, accurate picture of pioneer life and the difficulties that were faced by white settlers when they came to Harney County.

A little bit about Claire, she was born in 1923 in Andrews, and she was raised, cooking for a 20 man, 20 person threshing crew, walked to school on snow shoes, once went flying with a 16 year old pilot in an open-cockpit airplane. He crashed and was killed, and she escaped without injury. As an adult she lived in a world of wealth and privilege, first as the wife of Alfred Hurt, a U.S. Diplomat, later married to Henry Luce III, the publisher of Time Magazine, who died last year. This is what she said in a letter before her death. And she was 47 when she died in 1971. She wrote in a letter, the pioneers tried to create a way of life which we encourage in faith, would dominate. And she thought this concept must be an eternal life passed from generation to generation. The American dream is very beautiful, very fragile; you cannot survive in any society which values the material success as a criterion for dignity and recognition.

If anybody is interested, she is buried in the Fort Harney Cemetery, which is about 10 miles east of here, and north Highway 20. To reach her grave you have to go through two cattle gates, and two pastures to get to the cemetery.

So, we're going to let Mike lead off, and Mike is from Jordan Valley, and as I said he is the nephew of Walter McEwen. So come on up Mike.

MIKE HANLEY: My wife is watching the time. First of all I would like to introduce my cousin, Judy and Jerry Rayburn, and my wife Linda Lee, and my daughter Martha. Where are you Martha Corrigan? And granddaughters Morgan and Cassidy who go to school in Crane. So they are local, they are all local to one degree or another. Depends on how you define that.

But it was really great to meet Nancy Egan today, because her ancestor was my personal hero way, way back. Because here was a man who against his better judgment

and instincts went with his people through a very, very troubled time during the Bannock War to watch out for his folks and gave his life for it. Not unlike that what Robert E. Lee did with his folks during the Civil War, when he went with Virginia. He didn't lose his life, but I say there is a parallel there, and you come from good stock Nancy. But we were real lucky in Jordan Valley. On our ranch we had a fellow work for us from Owyhee, which is ... Leroy Harney. And Leroy Harney worked for us for twenty years, and he was my daughter Martha's godfather. And when Martha grew up she was, grew up rather fluent in Paiute and Shoshone. And she had a name, an Indian name, that Leroy gave her it was "Yungawndry", (sp.?) which means little baby that cries every once in awhile. (Laughter) So anyway --- so that's the ties we have to the land. As we go back, all of us are one people, and we're brought together in this history room, and this library, and we're very fortunate to live here. And I am real glad to be part of the program.

And our Uncle Walter was a real inspiration to us. But our real inspiration before that were our grandparents. And I want to mention something now that I think we all ought to really pay attention to when we're dealing with oral history, and what folks have to say, what they have to offer to a collection. And that is, never assume anything. You can get a treasure from the least expected place. For example my mother and daughter, or sisters had been over visiting my grandmother at the nursing home here at Burns, and she was 102 years old. And I asked my mother and my sister Alice, I said, "How is Grandma doing?" "Oh, she is not doing too well, she just really doesn't know what is going on, she has kind of lost contact with things. After all she is 102 years old." So Linda and I went to the Cattlemen's Convention and here on the way back, I think it was over at Bend, and we stopped at the nursing home, and she always sat right in front of the

door there. And she might not know anybody else, but she knew my Uncle Walter and myself when we walked in. I mean she just sat there all day, just waiting for us. Well Linda and I walked in, if I remember right, I think Linda was in the lead, was that right Linda? She kind of looked around Linda and saw me, and she says, "Hurry Michael, Uncle Tom is hooking up the buggy, going to take us on a buggy ride." I said, "Oh boy Grandma, I can't wait." Well so, and then she said, "Today I met the most interesting person." And I said, "Oh you did Grandma?" She said, "Yes, at the ranch." That was there in Barren Valley, where the old Turnbull place is. I don't know what they call it, Double Tree Ranch, or Little Tree Ranch, or whatever it is now, Larry Williams' place.

WOMAN: Oh, Treetop.

MIKE HANLEY: Treetop. Okay, but otherwise she said, most interesting a herd of cattle coming down the road, so Uncle Tom and I walked out to the fence to see who it was, just to look, and this man came trotting out, out of the herd, with a buckboard with a team of horses. And they were saddle horses; with blaze faces, and stock and feet. And he came up and asked Uncle Tom if he could leave the cattle there. And Uncle Tom said, "He sure could." And he turned around and trotted back to the team. And Uncle Tom said, "That's Peter French." So right there from that lady who was completely out of it, I found what was the last living person who had actually seen Peter French. And this was in 1992, or 1990, and that had to have been from the Christmas day of '97 when Pete French was killed. So I went back probably at least 1896, and maybe '95. So what a pearl I got there.

And then they came in and asked if we wanted to go to the --- or they were going to go in there and eat, if we could come in and visit. So Linda and I went into the

kitchen, or into the dining room, and we had all these folks lined up, and they had tomatoes cut up into quarter pieces, about like that. And all they had to eat with was a spoon. And Charlie Otley's mother-in-law Violet Brown said, "I guess they were afraid we were going to stab each other." (Laughter) So --- and there is no way they could eat them you know. My grandmother has only got one tooth, and they are all lined up with a tomato on a spoon. So anyway, I said, "Well I'll fix that." So I took out my pocketknife, the same one here, and it's still got blood on it from branding calves the other day. But anyway, I went like that, but it doesn't work now, but anyway the blade clicked and flicked like that. And I said, "Well I'll cut them up." And Violet says, "Oh no you don't, I know what that Charlie does with his knife. You're going to have to clean it first." So I did. So I went over to the sink and took a brush, and there was some soap and Violet came over to watch me to make sure I had it good and clean too. So I washed the knife and then went around and cut up everybody's tomato. And there was one poor old lady over there in the rocking chair, and she was just rocking away, and then Violet said, "Well what did you kids do last night?" Well Linda says why we danced all night. And this little lady in the rocking chair, who was Mrs. Presley from Crane, who my mother said in her youth was a terrific dancer, and she is in that rocking chair going back and forth, she says, "Dance, dance, if I could just get out of this rocking chair I'd be happy." So you never know what you'll find.

We in Harney County, and indeed in the West, have often been taken for granted by a good many people. We all know the rift we have between the Willamette Valley and Eastern Oregon. We are not even considered poor country cousins. But I'm going to tell you; sometimes it doesn't pay to ignore people from Eastern Oregon. And I've got a

personal experience about this collection. And I told Sandy about this the other day, that when I wrote my book *Owyhee Trail*, I was invited to come to Portland to the Oregon Historical Society and sign books for a Christmas party. And I received the Wrangler Award for the Cowboy Hall of Fame, so I thought maybe, you know, it would be kind of a good deal. And so I go there and they put me back in a corner by myself with some poor lady who has written children's books, and they weren't paying any attention to her, and not paying any attention to me so --- and I asked, "Well could I sit up there in the front where all the people are?" And they said, "Well you have a regional history and it really isn't all --- you know it doesn't do all that well here." So I just loaded up and came back to Jordan Valley-Burns. And Uncle Walter asked me how the, how it went. And I said, "Not very well." I told him what happened. And he had already willed his book collection to the Oregon Historical Society, and that's when he changed it to the Harney County Museum, or Library. So it doesn't pay to fool with the Lone Ranger. (Applause)

And one last thing about important things, when people come with something that they would like to donate or contribute, it always pays to look it over and just don't pass judgment until --- I'll just give you another example. When Leland Stanford, he and his wife had a lot of funds, they had a lot of money, and were very, very wealthy as you well know, and he decided that he would like to donate part of his wealth to funding a chair at Harvard, at the Harvard Law School. And nobody of course needed lawyers more than Leland Stanford, you know. But anyway he goes in, and of course he was probably dressed just like he came off the, you know, off the train, and he probably never cared all that much about ... And they refused to even pay any attention to him. The president of the college dismissed him. Well anyway he went back to California and founded

Harvard, or I mean Stanford University. So you got a good start here, and I think that will happen to you folks too, and all of us. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: Does anybody have any questions of Mike? Does anybody have any questions of Mike? Go ahead Charlie.

CHARLIE OTLEY: Well I've got a question, but it's along with something about Claire Luce when she passed away and buried out here at Harney. There was three jet airplanes that brought the family from New York, or wherever they lived. Three jet airplanes come in here for that funeral, and they buried her out there. They've got a big cement slab. My grandparents are buried out there too. But it was quite a thing in those days for three --- one family come in with three jets.

BILL WILBER: Any other questions? I'd like to introduce Jack Drinkwater, County Commissioner, and his wife Betty. Jack was instrumental on what we are about today. And according to my wife he attends almost every Foundation meeting, and stirs the pot every time he is there. (Laughter) We're about 15 minutes ahead of schedule. We're going to do the ribbon cutting at 1 o'clock. So why don't you just mingle and get acquainted, and talk to the authors if you want. And when we get through with the ribbon cutting, then we'll have each author come up and spend 15 minutes talking about whatever they think is important, as long as it is not politics. (Laughter)

..... Pause

BILL WILBER: Mary Kay, where are you? Mary Kay is the program manager for the Oregon State Library in Salem. Mary Kay, there you are. Thanks for making the trip, and the effort to come to our grand opening. Thank you. Is there anyone here that I have missed besides David Fine who was the City Manager for the city of Burns? David

would you identify yourself please. David has been very supportive of the library, and will continue to be. ...

Well we started with Mike Hanley, and thank you very much for the start of this. Our second authors are Greg Hodgen, Larry Purchase. I don't know if you fellows are going together, or one of you will be the speaker. And with them they have Nancy Egan from Duck Valley, Shoshone Paiute Reservation, in Owyhee, Nevada. And Nancy is a great, great, great granddaughter of Chief Egan. That South Egan street, [Egan Street named for Chief Egan] and of great fame of Harney County, and thank you for being with us.

GREG HODGEN: Thank you Bill. And thank all of you for being kind enough to invite us to your most wonderful party and presentation. Libraries are a community's backbone. They are a heritage that you hand down to your children, and their children to their children. And I highly commend you today on this beautiful, beautiful structure surrounding us. It is just absolutely beautiful.

The primary reason I came here in the first place several years ago was to continue a journey that had begun approximately a year to that time, trying to find out what had happened in the Bannock and Paiute Indian War. I was born and raised in Pendleton. And Larry Purchase and myself grew up together, went to school together, and shared so many interests that one day he called me up and said, "How would you like to find where Near Here is?" And Near Here is on a sign, a state highway marker, near Riley. And the sign isn't correct, it needs to be changed, that's one of the things that always bothered us on that sign as well as the sign at Battle Mountain State Park, was Near Here a battle took place. And as small boys we used to look around at these state

parks in Eastern Oregon and say where is Near Here? Was the battle right here by these park benches? Was it on the side hill? And I used to have my grandmother read the sign to me when I was little, before I could read much. And that phone call started the beginning of a voyage for the two of us. It's a voyage that we met so many wonderful people, such as yourselves, and certainly people like Nancy Egan.

We began the journey in Portland, where we were both living at the time, and I took a two-week sojourn and came down to Silver Creek and was lucky enough to have gained access onto what I suspected was the battle sight of Silver Creek. And once I was satisfied that that was probably the location for many sources, proceeded up Highway 395, ultimately ending up in Pendleton where this war ended. The war actually didn't end there, it continued clear into Wyoming where the last group of these people were captured by General Miles. But it's an exodus of a people that were having so much difficulty trying to find out their place in the new world, that they became confused. There were many things, there were religious issues. There was many non-partisan issues that they were dealing with. Many --- I don't have to explain the issues to you here today. At any rate, at the conclusion of my voyage we sat down and went to work. And it took us eight years, and at the end of eight years we came out with, *The Rocks are Ringing*. It's something that is certainly a milestone in my life, and I know it's a milestone in Larry's life. Our parts in the book were one --- I presented myself as basically sitting around a campfire, taking all of this data that I had accumulated, and facts, put them together and then handed them to poor Larry. Poor Larry had to go through page after page, after page editing my mistakes. I think one time the word was I had thrown out a five-gallon bucket of commas. (Laughter) But bless his heart, he hung

in there with me and together we produced this presentation, a book, that's a presentation, that's all it is. It is a gift back to the people. We definitely found out where Near Here is.

Without further adieu, I'd like to hand the microphone over to a very, very special person in my life, and one certainly in the history of the Pacific Northwest. And that is the direct descendant of Chief Egan, Chief of the Northern Paiute. (Applause)

NANCY EGAN: Thank you. I'm so thankful that we were invited here, and Greg contacted me so that I could be here today. And I'm glad for; at least I'm learning and being a part of this history. And the last time that I was here was back in '99. And we came here to do the repatriation of Chief Egan. And our family had a discussion and a meeting, and we decided that he needed to be at the location of where he, where he, his area that he had roamed in, and being that this here was the area that he occupied at the time. And we decided, our family decided that this would be the best place for him to have his resting place, after he had been over in the Smithsonian for over 120 years. The remains were repatriated and I'm glad that they have the Native American Graves Protection Act, which was implemented which allowed our family to repatriate the remains to the descendants. And at the time my grandfather had still been alive and you will see his picture on the back of the book, on *The Rocks are Ringing*.

At the time that we were doing the repatriations my grandfather was 97. However we did travel here, and I think Mike had mentioned that, about his grandmother, where sometimes you don't think that they understand. But I think my grandfather clearly understood what our mission was, that day that we traveled here. And the morning that we were, the morning that we were to have the burial he began speaking about different issues that had gone back in history that he knew of, or that he was aware of. And I think

it is pretty much similar to the story that Larry and Greg have about Near Here. And he began to tell about, just portions of history that he remembered. And he knew exactly why we were here, and why, you know, we came. And as he just shared that morning, we kind of kicked one another because we didn't have a recorder with us. Now had we had one, we could have had that recorded. But since we didn't we just have the oral history that he has left with us since he has gone on.

And when we done the repatriation, I hadn't met Larry and Greg prior to that time, and they --- he, Greg was telling me that when they were finished with the story, that was going to be the ending of the story where they had written, all the Egan's as --- the family had been, they were all deceased at the time. But his wife Doris went to the grocery store that morning, and it was on May 2nd of 1999, and there was an article in the paper and she raced back home and said, "No Greg, your story is not finished." And that, several days after that was how Greg contacted me and we've been like best friends and it seems like we have known each other for a long time. And it has been --- seems like it was just yesterday. But they had, to me it seemed like they had the beginning of the story, and we had the ending of the story, and it all just went together as one. Just from reading, or just from hearing what Greg had to share on the history that they had researched after researching for over eight years, I came up with a poem, which you'll see it's in the book, for those of you that have purchased the book. And at this time I would just like to share this poem that --- this was I guess the few words that I could put in my mind, and picture what probably had happened back then. And the dedication that Chief Egan had for his people.

And I wrote this poem in 2001, and I wondered and pondered about what title should I give this poem. And the only thing I kept coming back to was “his people”. So that’s the title of my poem. I wrote this book, I mean I wrote, excuse me I wrote this poem before I even read the book or knew anything about the book. And as I shared with Greg later, he said well Nancy it seems like you have already read the book. So this poem is dedicated to Chief Egan, “His People”.

“High up on that mountain he stood, overlooking the enemy.

Deep within his mind he knew his people.

He had helped to lead the fight for survival.

He had to give so that his people could live.

The people were as one, the Paiutes he loved as his own.

His people he led free, over the land he cherished, Mother Earth, where life is everlasting.

Only the Paiute people could have followed the dream that he had for his people.

To honor and to love, with sincere respect, his people will live on.”

Thank you. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: Larry, are you going to make any comments?

LARRY PURCHASE: I’ll have to check, beyond that I’ll have ... my time.

BILL WILBER: Okay. The next presenter is Ted Merrill from John Day. And the book I saw yesterday, *I Only Dressed the Wounds Notes of the Country Doctor*. And I don’t remember him as Ted, but I remember him as Dr. Merrill. So Ted, come on down.

DR. TED MERRILL: Well I certainly appreciate this invitation to such an august gathering. And I guess I qualify because partly I’m from “Near Here”, John Day. Partly I’m old enough to have seen quite a bit of history.

I grew up in a small town in Fairfield, Idaho. Our dad was a schoolteacher. And I had one brother, and we spent our summers camping and fishing up on the Salmon River and Wood River in Idaho. And many years later my brother and I went from telling our kids the exciting adventures from my childhood about those days, to deciding we should jot down a few of those stories. So over 25 years or so, he'd write a story and send me a copy. And I'd write a story and send him a copy. And eventually it came out in this book. So this is my brother and me 70 years ago. I never gave you advice, ever, ...

BILL MERRILL: The heck you didn't. (Laughter)

TED MERRILL: So from there I went on to medical school, and eventually wrote another book. This is my medical memoir of half a century of medical practice. And I guess having written one and a half books now; I'm qualified as a prolific author. (Laughter) Therefore I got permission to just say a few words about the history of the publishing business which I have learned the hard way, and which a lot of you probably already know. But it keeps changing so fast. When my brother and I got this book finished we were harping back to the old days when you would write a book and we'd send it to a publisher that you could find and they would read it and decide whether they wanted it. And then would or would not buy the book and pay you something for it. Those days are gone, more or less. And as we found, we knew of one publisher, Caxton Printers in Caldwell, Idaho, who I remembered from our childhood, my mother had some dealings with them. So we offered this book to Caxton Printers, and got back the all too familiar rejection comment that it doesn't exactly fit our needs at the moment.

So we finally, my brother lives now in British Columbia, north of Victoria, and found a little publisher up there, that published the book. So this is printed up there in British Columbia. And he hauled a trunk load of books down, and we share them, and we sell them. So the only way to get this book now is to buy it from the author, or from one of the few stores where we placed.

So when I wrote this book I didn't quite know how to go about this, and I looked at writers market, this big Bible of writers, and found a list of publishers and all of them said in their, "We don't accept books from authors, only from agents. So you'll have to get an agent to recommend the book to us." So I turned a few pages, and there is a big list of agents, a hundred or so. And they tell you what they do, or don't want, and mostly they don't want you to send the manuscript, they want, if you're lucky, a couple of chapters. Or most of them want a one-page clearing letter describing your book, and explaining to them why that's the best book of this type, and how, why they should be interested in even reading it. So I sent this off to 17 different agents, and got back the little form rejection letters from all of them. But one of them very generously hand wrote in the margin, "I tried without success to sell nostalgic memoirs by doctors. Publishers weren't, previously published authors with name recognition." So there is the old catch
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TAPE 2 – SIDE A

TED MERRILL: --- to get the name recognition you have to be published, and to be published you have to have name recognition. So this gets us back to the self-publishing area again. But then I discovered that the new technology has led to print on demand

publishing. And so I researched that, that means you can send your book to a publisher and after you have paid them a substantial amount of money they will print the book and you can have them print 1, or 75, or 3,000 or whatever amount or order you paid for. And while I was looking into this I encountered a group of writers over in Baker City who had recently discovered each other, and started having regular monthly meetings. And the leader of that group, Clair Button was just getting ready to publish a second novel. And he urged me to look into Lightning Source, a print-on-demand company. The thing that is unique about them, that they are partners with Ingram, the big, one of the big book distributing companies, so that you get some accessibility and advertising along with the printing. But they said we don't work with doctors, we just work with publishers. (Laughter) But by that I found that what they did is, that they don't do editing, proofreading, book design, cover design or that. But the publisher has to do that, and then they will do the printing. So that means I have to become a publisher. So inside this book it says it is published by Homeostasis Press. (Laughter) That's me. I'm the CEO, ... janitor, bookkeeper, Homeostasis Press. And so I'm registered with the Secretary of State as a, doing the business under an assumed name. Which gets me an awful lot of unexpected, unsolicited mailings, and junk mail. And of course that leads to, the technology just goes on and on. The only --- Lightning Source is the name of the company that does the printing --- their little logo, the yellow book on the back of this cover. And they only communicate through e-mail, so I'm dragged kicking and screaming farther into the digital world now. So now I have a web site, Homeostasis Press.com. So if you want to know what Homeostasis means, you can look on that web site and it will tell you.

There is one other little aspect of the publishing world that I think is an interesting perspective, which is the, you know the ISBN numbers, the ISBN, international standard book numbering system, that identifies probably most of the books in here. And these can be --- now this was published in Canada, and this one in the US. They have very similar numbers. But the ten digits ISBN numbering system only will cover about a billion books. And since the advent of the computer word processors, everybody and his brother so to speak have written a book. And so that next year, by I think the end of 2007, the ten digits ISBN numbering system is going to be expanded to thirteen digits. Now according to ... statistician, you know, I would infer from this that if a billion books need numbering that means that one out of every six people, man, woman and child on the face of the earth has written a book, or is about to. And that explains why this wonderful team of book fairies that you have here has built this new addition, and it keeps going on and on. So this is the extent of my writing so far, but I have a box that I keep dropping notes and stuff into for the next one. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: I'm very impressed that Ted followed my recommendation so closely. I can't recall that when we worked together that he ever paid much attention to me though. That's the way it was between administrators and physicians.

The next person is Lorene Allen and Lois Phillips. Lorene Allen and yours truly started the first ambulance service in Grant County in the '60's. And here is the reason we did. Can you imagine having an automobile accident and laying in the grass or the barrow pit and this car comes driving up and it says Driskill Mortuary on the side of it. (Laughter) That was the call bus so we got busy and procured an ambulance. Lorene and I used to travel around Grant County picking loggers up, and car accidents, and cowboys,

and we had many tales to tell. And I haven't, probably haven't seen you in thirty plus years, so nice to see you again. Lorene. So come on up.

LORENE ALLEN: Thank you Bill. Well he doesn't know how true that story is. Actually after we started the ambulance, we had one vehicle and the mortician who kindly let us use his back-up car if we had two calls at a time. And then further, there was the state forester had a station wagon that they said we could use. Actually the library loaned us their bookmobile once, but that didn't --- come to the, pull up to the hospital with a bunch of dead books, you know. Anyway, we had a call once that we had sent out a transfer to Portland in Raleigh's rig, and we had our ambulance out on a car accident. A gentleman was sick at Seneca, that's not too far south of here; we sent the state forestry rig out there. And then we got a call that there was somebody passed out in Prairie City in the street. Well Raleigh said, this was about ten o'clock at night, and he said, "Well all I've got left is the hearse, but you can use it." So we sent the hearse out, and I don't know, the gentleman I guess had been celebrating a little too much. He was leaning against the lamppost, and he looked up and here was this hearse backing up to pick --- We never saw him again. (Laughter) Well I ---

This is a real privilege being here today. I've known Sandy, she worked in the bookstore over there that we had in John Day --- and we were really generous with our pay. We didn't pay her anything. But she was great help. But anyway, I've, we've been interested in the history of, and presenting the local history for quite a while. But I never did anything about until one time we were in a meeting and this elderly lady, a very dignified person that you would think probably grew up, you know, with money and privilege and so forth, casually mentioned that she had lived in Greenhorn. And I

thought, you know, the roads up there were closed in the winter. So I said, “Well how did you get out in the winter?” “Oh, we skied.” And it turned out that they did. They were there for ten years. If they had to get out and away, they went out by skis down to --- What’s that little town, Mom, down on the highway?

WOMAN: Mammoth?

LORENE: No, not even close. No. It comes right down South Fork. I’ll think of it when I don’t need it anymore. Anyway ---

WOMAN: Whitney.

LORENE: Anyway, Whitney, right, thanks. So I asked her if I could tape some of her remembrances. So we did. And she said, “Well what are you going to do with it?” I don’t know, maybe we will write a story, you know. But after I began to transcribe that tape, it was so real, she was such a great person to listen to that I decided just simply to write it up almost the way she did except for organization. That’s about what we did, and it was just great. She was, they weren’t thinking history, they were just living. And yet it was history, because it was part of our heritage, the things that they had done. So then I began to look at other people too, and we did two or three of those.

One of the fellows that I taped was a cowboy here in Harney County, and he, out of Drewsey, and he was living in Currey at the time. He happened to be the father of one of my friends. She said, “You know, if you’re going to do these books, you ought to do one for Dad.” So we talked to him, and sure enough he had these tales to tell. He went to Crane to school, and as you know there was the living facility there at Crane. Well he and the house mother didn’t get along all that well, because he was a little casual in his obedience to the rules probably. That’s what I think anyway. But he had to work, you

know, while he was going to school there. One of the jobs he had was building fires in the church for the Sunday morning service. But of course he had to do it real early. Well he had been out one Saturday night and got in early, gone to bed, woke up early, and thought well I'll just go down, you know, build a fire. Went down and built the fire, and as he was chopping some chips flew up and cut his lip, and it was bleeding there some. And then he stumbled as he came out of the church, it was still dark, and fell down the steps. Well he went to town, and somebody patched him up, and then he went back to the dorm and the housemother gave him a Hail Columbia because she thought he was just getting in, and was a little worse for the wear. He said he didn't dare tell her he'd got hurt in church.

This other one was kind of a, just kind of a personal thing, and I was just relating to what Ted was saying about publishers. I just --- after I first queried Caxton --- I gave up on publishers and just paid for the publishing. There is a printer there in John Day that does a great job and needed a job on this too. But I'd always written, you know, things kind of casual forms and then just stick them somewhere. But I had some great pictures, and I thought, wouldn't it be neat if I could put these pictures and these quotes together and kind of relate them to each other. So I did, some of them on purpose, some of them accidentally. Well, the other comment my husband said was --- The name of it is, *I Thought I Heard The Clouds Talking* --- And he said, "Well, now I know what you've been listening too."

Okay, so when Steve Phillips, this is ... Lois' husband, he is the --- with the fire department, well I ought to explain about Stan, but he was a great guy, and he really loved the history of that area. And both Stan and Lois have long backgrounds in the

history of John Day area. Stan had a slide show that he would give that would give some of this history, and it was really interesting. Of course, Stan knew everything about everybody. And you just wondered who was he going to spill on next, you know. So Stan was going to write a book, but he never did that, he didn't [his health didn't] ... allow him to put it together. So after awhile Lois and I were talking, and she agreed that I would take these, actually boxes of stuff. Would you believe when I got that stuff home out of the car, I couldn't even hardly get into the little room that I was using, because here were these boxes of stuff, notes and handwriting that --- well it was chicken scratch handwriting, ... which I had a long time to decipher. But we put this thing together and it was really neat, and so I'm going to let Lois tell you a little bit about some of those people that she and Stan knew.

LOIS PHILLIPS: First of all thank you so much for inviting us. Stan worked in this area for a long time. I don't know if there is anybody here connected with the fire department or not, but Stan was a deputy with the state fire marshals office. And he worked for them for 23 years, and he loved coming to Burns because he loved the desert, and especially the one-room schools that were still operating at that time. Now Stan's ancestors go way, way back. His great grandfather was trapping beaver from Canyon Creek before gold was discovered. Just think what would have happened if they had discovered the gold. And --- the name of Delore, and some of you may be familiar with the name of Delore, because they settled out in the ... country. And they were buckaroos, and they rounded up the wild horses and brought them to Burns to sell them to the army.

Now my side of the family, my father's parents came from Sweden. A great uncle first come over, he got disillusioned with the way things were going in Sweden. So he

come over and joined the US Navy over on the east coast, of course. That was in 18--- I think 1862 or so, or before that. And he was wounded; so then he left and come around by ship to California, because he had heard of the gold discovery. Well he was disillusioned with the gold, and he moved on up to Portland, because he had heard of the Canyon City gold rush. Well he ended up in The Dalles, and then he come on up to Grant County. There again he become disillusioned with the gold prospecting and all, but he fell in love with the country. So he homesteaded up, it would be about four and a half miles north of Mt. Vernon. And if you travel that road very much, that four and a half miles up and across the little field on your right going up, you'll see that one little lone log cabin, and that's where my great-great uncle homesteaded, and he raised sheep. And then he found out that his sister was widowed in Sweden and with three little kids. So he sent for her to come over, and she come over, and one happened to be my grandfather and his two sisters. So they all lived in that little cabin, they only had on Little Beech Creek. And then as my grandfather become of age, he took out a, a homestead out Little Beech Creek. And there they raised a family of ten kids. And they raised apples, and potatoes, and other vegetables. And they used to come over, my grandfather raised lots of apples and potatoes and he and my dad and a four-horse team come to Burns every fall to sell the apples and the potatoes. We had a picture of them on a four-horse team wagon, where they were on their way to Burns.

And then my grandparents also, you may be familiar with the Benson Hotel in John Day, that was my grandparents. They later had a shoe store. And since then it has been sold, and it's a carpet company now. And then on my mother's side they came first out in North Carolina. My great grandfather was in the war. They moved to Texas, and

then they caught the wagon train to Oregon. And they settled first in LaGrande, they spent the first winter in LaGrande because of the weather. And then they later moved to Fox Valley. Well that didn't last too long because of the weather conditions. And then they eventually moved to Mt. Vernon where they settled. And my mother's family, all of them were born in Oregon, as was my dad's family. And I of course have spent all my time in Grant County. I went to school in Mt. Vernon and later married Stan and lived in John Day.

And Stan worked in this area as I said, as a deputy fire marshal. And any of you, or might be associated with the schools, or the fire department, I'm sure you remember him, because he knew everybody. And he used to --- in later years after retirement from the state, he and I went into the private fire investigation business, which we worked all over. We went to Alaska, to New Mexico, Wisconsin, Washington, Idaho, it was a real education to get to travel and somebody else pay for it. You might remember too, some of you senior citizens; he played the big base fiddle at the senior citizens here in John Day, especially with Nate ... from his group. And that's about all. That's about it. I'm still here.

And in regard to this book, Stan worked for many years gathering this history. And like Lorene said, and I can attest to it, he had boxes and boxes of material. And it took Lorene a good year to get it all sorted out and try to decipher it. Because Stan was one of these --- he'd go down town, and he always kept a little notebook in his shirt pocket. Well he would see somebody and they'd be talking history, he'd make a note. Well his notes were such, he knew what he was talking about, but somebody else wouldn't have a clue. And after Lorene and I talked ... it was just chicken scratches,

because he printed, he didn't write. And thank goodness for Lorene; she deserves a medal for going through all that stuff and putting this book together. And I think that anybody would enjoy it. And thank you again for inviting us over. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: So many things about Lorene Allen that would be of interest probably, besides being an ambulance driver and an EMT. And you were actually the first group of people to be licensed in Oregon, Lorene and myself, and three or four others. And I recall Dr. Merrill, and Ted taught the EMT's how to be EMT's, which you don't get physicians to do that anymore. So I think we had a very good understanding of first aid and emergency medicine.

Other things Lorene has done is she is quite a pilot and she has flown all over the country. And she has reminded me that she would fly the plane onto, the way out, and her husband Lorell would fly back. And finally she is a politician, she filled in for an unexpired term of a county judge in Grant County, and then she was elected as the judge of that county. So she is a very talented lady. Thanks for being here.

Our next authors are Doug and Cathy Jory, with pictures from the Jory family collection of rodeo from 1910 to 1929, they began to collect an oral history of stories handed down of the early days of rodeo, and published an oral history of rodeo from Pendleton to Calgary, and continue to collect cowboy oral histories and publish Oregon Cowboy Country. Doug and Cathy.

CATHY JORY: I get to hold the microphone, wow, thank you. Here you need that; I've never needed a mike in my life.

DOUG JORY: Well now before I get started, by name is Doug Jory, and this is my wife Cathy.

CATHY: Hi.

DOUG JORY: And I've got a little suggestion for Greg Hodgen and Larry Purchase. I think I've got the title for your next book. The book's from Pendleton and we're from Pendleton ... we moved out here about three years ago. And when I was there I had Western Fencing. And I was there; over the years I traveled probably every back road in the county, in Umatilla County. And one time I was driving by myself in my pickup going to a job, and I looked up and it was over towards Adams, Oregon ... and I saw a sign, and it said ten miles to Havana. So I think instead of, that's pretty close to Near Here. (Laughter) And I stopped the rig and I looked at that thing, and I couldn't believe what I was looking at, ten miles to Havana. It has never left me, I mean I think about that when I get lost, or when I don't know where I'm at, or we go back up to like Montana or someplace like that.

CATHY JORY: He's always looking for Havana.

DOUG JORY: So I hope you appreciate it --- We specialize in oral history, which is what this dedication is really all about. So we've done three books, like I said, and we travel around, we spend a lot of time talking to people. We, I probably, we probably conducted three or four hundred interviews so far.

CATHY JORY: Oh, at least.

DOUG JORY: And, but anyway I had 500 old rodeo pictures that I inherited from my granddad, ... used to be over in Baker, Oregon. And when I first got them, I was single; Cathy and I have only been married since 1995. I found them years ago, and I looked through them all, and the best thing I could come up with for the pictures was to paper the walls at The Buckaroo ... That was my idea of really, really doing something for the

book, which was off in the future, I hadn't even thought about the book yet. In the ... it's pretty well known throughout the world, the rodeo world, there is a watering hole there in Pendleton, under the stands. But then I got to thinking there is a lot of sticky fingered people that would have just taken those pictures and ...

But anyway, when Cathy and I got married she was going through this old trunk that belonged to my granddad on my mother's side, and I had all these pictures in there. And she started looking through them and she said, "Wouldn't it be interesting if we went around and found out something about the people in those pictures?" Now these pictures dated back to 1910, 1911, into the '20's, and ended in 1929 I guess --- the stock market, that's when my granddad lost everything in the stock market in 1929. And I guess that must have been when he stopped rodeoing too. But those pictures, Cathy saw a lot more potential than I did. She saw the pictures ---

CATHY JORY: No, really it's just that he married a nosy woman. (Laughter)

DOUG JORY: But anyway, she said well, I had Western Fencing there at the time, for 30 years, and she kind of saw more in it than I did. And we started as a hobby; we started traveling around and interviewing people that knew something about the early days of rodeo. And they were, oh they kind of ranged from Northern California, to, up into Washington, up around Colfax, the range of the pictures. So we followed that around for quite awhile, probably six or seven years I guess.

CATHY JORY: Six years.

DOUG JORY: And we got quite a collection of them, and one day we were sitting around and I asked her, I said, "Well how many, how many interviews do you think it takes to make a book?" And she said, "Well I don't know, let's get them out and take a

look.” She is always doing that, she puts the things together. I gather them up, and she puts them together. And so we when we put it together we had something like 500 manuscript pages.

So we started, this is a long period of time we’re talking about. We started going through some of the University Presses and some of the publishers and I wish we had known, or I wish, we had terrible timing, Caxton Printers was our first choice. But they weren’t, they weren’t busy then, they weren’t even in business then. Like all these other people, they all went to Caxton and everything worked. We started before Caxton came back into business doggone it. So anyway we went to the University of Oklahoma, we went through the University of Washington; we found one program at the University of Nevada, wasn’t it?

CATHY JORY: The University of Nevada at Reno.

DOUG JORY: And they had the program of ---

CATHY JORY: Oral history of rodeo program. They got funded; they got the staff, just sitting there. It has been there for five years, nothing is being done. Go figure.

DOUG JORY: Anyway, they had the program, they are funded, they got plenty of money apparently, and we said well gee whiz, what sort of a project are you involved in? Well we don’t do that; we’re not at that stage yet. Apparently we just take the money in and it sits there and --- And we said, “Well, we don’t have a dime, other than what we spent on the books, and maybe we can get together, maybe we can kind of front for you.” Go out and get interviews ... and since then we’ve had our biggest break through here in the last two days, after all this time. And we know a lot of these programs have kind of come and gone, a lot of these programs have caught on, but we haven’t found anybody

who was really interested in what we are doing. Oh they are interested, but they don't want to support it. Well I'll let Cathy tell you about the little break through we just think we had here.

CATHY JORY: We think we have. I called --- there was an article in the Ketchikan Magazine, and I don't know if anybody here remembers the Ketchikan Magazine that covered rodeo history and rodeo contestants, but in 1985 Ketchikan ran a full page ad paid for by a gentleman that wanted the history recorded. So I called to get permission to read the ad that the man wrote. Because it explains exactly what we were doing in words that I could never come up with. And they said, well we talked about it, and they said, "Sure go ahead." And then they said, "Think we can, you know, possibly serialize your books in the magazine." I said, "Sure, go ahead." What a break, first one we have had. But this is the article that the man wrote. Gone are Jackson Sundown, Clyde and Jigs Burke, Bob Crosby, Andy and Eddie Curtz, Norvel Cooper, Hippie Burmister, Frank Dean, Charlie Dees, Jimmy Dance, Clay Carr, Agnes Linder, Bill and Red Lands, Floyd Heppner, John Lindsay, Bill Linderman, Pete Knight, Pat McGee, George Mills, Rawlins, Ralph, Rude, Blessing, Hogan, and dozens of others, just a small cross-section of rodeo folks, some old, some not so old, but all gone. Gone too are the thousands of great stories, of great horses, great bulls, tough bucking horses, superb roping and dogging horses, of long travels, many belly laughs, hard times, good times, fine ladies, fine rodeos, and little punkin ... and the worlds funniest jokes, some printable, most not. Great promoters, and producers, and some snakes, crooks and rascals too. Some remembered, more forgotten. It's sad that it's all gone, and it's sad that those that have ridden on into the mist took so much of it all with them. Unidentified photographs,

burned letters, entry lists, bulletins, go around winners, event champions, prize saddles, buckles, prize money, and pay-offs. Foolishness, bad whiskey, and good whiskey, little nips of the courage bottle, and hell roaring double raising roof-crashing parties that were laughed over for years. But the saddest fact of all is this, there are many great cowboys and cowgirls, clowns, some average, some not so great, some not even fair, that are still living and among us. And regardless of the prizes, prestige and concessions, winners and losers alike all have something priceless in common. They carry around in their heads memories, historical memories that smile with the happiness of things past, and it goes unwritten, unreported and unrecorded. And when they're gone, it goes with them. Sad, I reckon. The history need not die, and should not, if oncoming generations are to know and profit from the greatest teacher of them all, experience. If they and we don't know where we have been, how can we all know where we're going? (Applause)

DOUG JORY: Anyway we're, we moved down from Pendleton and down to Hines. We live, we're permanent residents there now we're proud to say. And we are continuing with our oral histories, we're --- this winter we probably --- and we don't like to do this, but it's working out pretty well, we do interviews over the phone. We traveled extensively the last several years, and with the expenses on the road and everything, we just couldn't do it, we didn't want to take a chance with our health either. But the interviews themselves are, keep me going personally. I love them, it's a --- I interview on the phone, when I get off the phone I sit down and transcribe the interviews. I laugh all day. I never had this much fun, I enjoy it. And we thank ---

CATHY JORY: Good thing he's retired, he can do what he wants now, huh?

DOUG JORY: So anyway, if any of you people happen to know of anybody, we always ask this --- anybody that would like to be part of this oral history, we would definitely like to talk to them, and we're going to be doing, as of now, at least a dozen and maybe fifteen of these books ... And so I guess that's a good way ... we're open to suggestions, and we'd like to be part of it. We really appreciate the oral history here at the library. We think that this is one of the most tailor made, perfect organizations that we could be a part of, and we appreciate that. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: Thank you very much. I'm assuming you're going to get Don Toelle.

WOMAN: Yes.

BILL WILBER: Okay.

WOMAN: ...

BILL WILBER: Toelle has some incredible stories.

WOMAN: ... been here.

BILL WILBER: Probably some of them can't go in the book.

WOMAN: ...

BILL WILBER: Geri Oster from Burns, you're a hard working group, including Mary, Kim, Jennie, and Diane have photographed and authored three volumes of, *Pieces of the Past, Harney County Historical Cemeteries*, including Ft. Harney Cemetery, where Claire is buried; Drewsey Cemetery, Crane Cemetery, and other small cemeteries. Geri would you like to come forward and talk about it. And if Mary, Ken, Jean and Diane are here, bring them too.

GERI OSTER: Well there is always somebody that has to be different, and I am. I don't have a book, I have a booklet ... And it is a story, or actually an inventory of the history,

the historical cemeteries of Harney County. And by the time we finish, and we're a long ways from it, we will have covered the whole county the best we could. And, anyway, that's an introduction to the books. But I want to thank you for inviting me. And Mary --- and I didn't think I would get here so Mary was going to take over and do it, but I did get here. Anyway, thank you. And a great congratulations on the new room, the Western Room, it's wonderful.

Okay, I put the work together that Mary [Salsbery] and Ken Schwieren documented by hand. They have been to every one of these cemeteries and have written it all down. And Jennie Stearns is helping with writing it, and putting it into the book. And, let's see, as you can tell I'm not used to talking in front of people. And my daughter Diane Oster-Courtney also has a hand in this. And for those of you that haven't read the book, I will tell you that the idea came to me, it's not a new idea, I copied Jill Bollman in Wallowa County, she is a mortician's widow. And she and her son decided to put the stories together in all of the graves in Wallowa County, and listing in a booklet, and publish it. They formed their own publishing deal. So they didn't have to go through what everybody else is going through. And so I thought why not do this, because Mary and Ken have done all this work, why not get it out so people can buy a book and see where their relatives are, and the history of Harney County. And so I did that and all of the money goes to the Historical Society here in Harney County. It doesn't go to anybody. But we do publish here locally. Shepherd Graphics has done our work for us. But we put it all together, and so they just publish it.

I agree that this is a way to get acquainted with Harney County. Because when you start in one area, and you go out and say, well I'm going to write this, or write

something about this, you get these generous people that have all these stories. And you don't dare write some of them down, you know, you'd be run out of the county. But it is so interesting, and so fascinating. And I don't know, I've lived here for a long time and my husband of course lived here for a long time and graduated from Crane. And he had a lot of stories that I never even wrote down, that would have been incredible for this book, but anyway, any of the books. Our next one will be on the --- there will be quite a few cemeteries included because a lot of the local Harney County cemeteries may be one or two people, and yet they're in a location. And so there will be about ten cemeteries included in the next book I think, at least that many. Yeah. And so Mary ---

MARY SALSBERY: ... the south end.

GERI OSTER: It's the south end, but it does include some of the ---

MARY: More scattered around.

GERI: Yeah. I mentioned Barren Valley, that's going to be one of them. Anything else that you can think of?

MARY SALSBERY: No, I think that's it. It has been a great experience, just going out and seeing all these graves, and I was born and raised here, and it brings back ---- when we went to the Burns Cemetery, my friend that wasn't raised here, she couldn't believe that I knew all these stories about all these people. I said, "Some good, some bad." I would say probably, oh 70 percent at least of the people in that cemetery I have known, or known their families all my life. So, it's very interesting.

GERI OSTER: And that includes Claire McGill Luce.

MARY SALSBERY: Yeah.

GERI OSTER: So, anyway, thank you again. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: Charlie have you done an oral history of everything you know about Harney County and your experiences in here, uncles and grandfather and that?

CHARLIE OTLEY: Well my grandfather came to Harney County in [1886] '86 from California in a wagon. And they had a little baby girl that was born that spring before they started out. My dad was born in '88. My Uncle Charlie was born in '91, and Uncle ... '94, and Aunt Annie Miller was a resident here for so many years. She was born in '96. And, well there is quite a bunch of Otley's around. Dick Otley had four boys, and my dad and mother had three, and so the remains of quite a few --- and that's as far back about as our roots go to, as far as Harney County. My grandfather came from England when he was 14 years old. And then when he got to Burns, Harney County, he started writing a diary of every day, and we wished he had done that from the time he left California, really, but he didn't. I have them in the Oregon Library, Historical Library in Portland. And he had a daily weather report, of every day since he lived here. But some of his diaries were lost, and some of them were stolen, and so we never, don't have the full set of them. There is a lot of interesting things in there. I can remember the year my Uncle Charlie was born, he was born in May of '91. But the homestead house that they lived in then, that I went back to reading these diaries, and I think it was the 25th of January it was 45 degrees below zero outside, and 25 inside the house. (Laughter) My dad was, and my aunt was small children at that time. But you know people had to do things the way they could do them in those days. And they were the tough generation people.

BILL WILBER: Sandra, I would suggest that you, or anybody, and Jolyn too, that Charlie needs to have, sit down for four or five hours and record what he knows. And Jack, have you done, you've done an oral history?

JACK DRINKWATER: Yeah.

BILL WILBER: Okay, thank you.

CHARLIE OTLEY: That's not all of it. Thank you.

BILL WILBER: Thank you. Our next author is Leilani M. Davis.

TAPE 3 – SIDE A

BILL WILBER: Next author is Leilani M. Davis; a history buff living on the Alvord could see a great story in it. The history of the ranch at ... that compelled her to write *The Shadow of the Steens*. I thought that's interesting.

LEILANI DAVIS: Hi, I'm Leilani Davis and we, my husband, my children and I reside at the Alvord Ranch, which we purchased in 1970. It still has a debt on it, which we will leave our children as an inheritance. (Laughter) That's the thing to do, isn't it? Anyway I can relate with Mike Hanley and everybody else as to publishing a book, this is my book, *Shadow of the Steens*, which will be in its third printing as of Monday by the way, which I'm tickled with. It's difficult. I thought the difficult thing was writing the book, because to gather the history, you have to go back to the old timers. A lot of them don't want to talk to you because they're afraid you will misconstrue or not give a true history as they relate it, as they like the people, but when they find out you're going to be okay and they'll tell so and so, that she is okay after all. Anyway, it all relates back that you can do a history. It was introduced in 2000 --- four years ago at the Albertson College of

Idaho, they had a private luncheon and I, a public book signing for me, and that's when the book was introduced. I, as I say, I thought the writing was the hard part, and the writing is hard, but the harder part is to get it published. When you are an unknown, publishing houses, obviously we are a capitalistic society, and we have to make money. In order to make money, they have to sell your book. So you go through the routine of trying to find a publisher, you almost give up. I sent to Universities. The Universities would write back saying it is a very well edited, well written book, however beings it is not a thesis, and you don't have your degree, we can't justify spending University money on you, end of story, which kind of goes like this.

You don't want to let anybody know you're not published. A benefactor came along and read it, and called, he read it in May, he called me in October and said he had sent to out readers, and he decided that I was the artist of the year. He said he had been sponsoring an artist a year for thirty years. "Are you sure you really want to do this?" In which he said he did. I'm grateful he did. As I said the college then had the first book signing, since then it just kind of boomeranged. I never expected ever to be what it is.

But I've had success, I'm writing, I'm on to two more books now. And the writing bug kind of grabs you, and you're off. Mike Hanley mentioned Historical Society of Oregon, supposed to be a wonderful society. They asked if they could have copies of it to read, and I generously sent them to them. They sent them to out reader shelves, excuse me, and I finally called and said, "What's happening?" And they said, "You realize your book is too regional for us to have in our facility." And I said, "Well I thank you very much for your time. I thought Oregon Historical Society was interested in Oregon history. Evidently you're only interested in the western history of Oregon."

So I said, “Would you mind sending my copies back to me?” And they said, “We can’t do that, you can come after them” (Laughter) I said, “Well I’m in Eastern Oregon, and a 110 miles out of Burns, and it would take me a day to get there, for three books, could you please mail them?” “No.” Evidently they don’t have financing to mail three books. It costs \$2.07 to mail a book, by the way. So, I don’t know if you, any of you people are familiar with Lois and George Shull, down at Andrews, they have a place. Marjorie and Andrew Shull were George’s parents. Lois and George now live, or have lived in Lake Oswego for some time. So I called Lois, I said, “Are you going downtown Portland?” She said, “Yeah.” I said, “Would you do me a favor and go by the Historical Society and pick up my books?” “Well sure, why, what’s going on?” So I told her. Well she was madder than a wet hen, because she said I was thinking about joining the society. But I went in and told them what I thought of them. I asked them for your three books back, and she said as I was leaving the library, I came out and I had the three books in my hand, and she said this young gal looks at me and says, “What’s in your hand?” She said, “Oh a book that a friend of mine from Eastern Oregon wrote.” “Huh, looks interesting, how much are they, may I buy one?” She’s from Portland. So I thought well that’s fine and dandy, I think I can survive without them perhaps.

There is a chapter in here if you have read it, or might read it, where I do give the environmental people a little bit of static because they’re not perfect. And I feel that the rancher is the true steward of the land. And we live there, if we overgrazed, which was done in the olden days, we as other industries had to clean up our act. If we overgraze in today’s world, we kill ourselves, we’re out of business, simple. Okay. So consequently --- where was I going with my story? Help me Mike. So anyway ---

MIKE HANLEY: ... the Historical Society, and you do it yourself, and you do it your own way.

LEILANI DAVIS: Right, thank you, right. So the Historical Society can, I think they perhaps upset me. Thank you. Because the chapter in here has to do with a little bit of environmental static. And also, when I was researching the book the Gilchrist family, was the manager sent up by, in California for Miller and Lux, when John Devine lost the ranch to the big --- drought and everything we had at one time. Miller and Lux took the ranch over, bought it, and they sent up one of their managers, Mr. Gilchrist from California who was very well thought of. Well in tracing back of the Gilchrist family, where did they go? Obviously I thought they must have gone back to California where they had come from.

So I finally, in long distance calls, found out that the one Gilchrist gentleman worked for Kaiser Foundation in the Oakland area. Well I think that was in 1970, and I called him, he finally said, "How did you ever find me?" Because in that year I think a lot of CEO's had been kidnapped for ransom from these major companies. And it's a long story, but I finally found you. And so I said what I'd like to do is, Oregon Historical Society some years ago had been given the, it's called "The Alvord Interlude", written by Evelyn Gilchrist. Evelyn Gilchrist was a daughter of the Mr. Gilchrist who came up from California for Miller and Lux. And she and her family had lived in John Devine's original house. And they had done things I felt, as ... in crops and gardens and the house, and the personnel and everything. So I asked him, the Historical Society, could I use any and/or a part of the story, because it really relates that there were people back there then, and how they did things. Oregon Historical Society said, "No once it is ours, it's ours."

So I asked Mr. Gilchrist, Mr. Gilchrist said, “My brother and I are executors of our family’s estate. And if you want it, you can have any and/or all that you want.” So I was able to go over the Historical Society’s head. I don’t think they appreciated that.

Meanwhile both Mr. Gilchrist and his brother and their wives have been up to the ranch, they have met my husband and I, they have opened up their photos, their family photo albums, and you’ll find some of the photos in here. About 1902 the interior of the house, which I thought was fantastic, like a gold mine really to me, and they said, “Well we have letters that the grandfather wrote to grandma, because when their aunts were old enough they thought that [men] would start looking at them, we’re going to take the girls out of here, get them back to civilization.” So of course Grandpa was a lonesome man. And he would write, said my dear Dulcie, you’ll see that in here. They said, “We have letters from Grandpa to Grandma. And I said, “Is there anything in there pertaining just to the ranch? Because I understand they are very personal, of course.” They said, “We don’t know, we’re going back to look.” So they talked to each other, and they said she’s okay. So they sent me, and they said, “You have full permission to use the letters.” So you’ll find all the letters written in full from Grandpa to Grandma. I thought they were just fantastic, which proves again how people lived then. And perhaps that’s the way we are still, not in those methods, but we’re still living on these ranches and we’re trying to still keep them in tact, and raise a good product. We feel a good safe product for everybody to enjoy. It is not only a safe product, but it is a good place to raise a family. We have raised three sons there, now we have eight grandchildren. Of those eight, we have triplets, and they all keep us busy too. But it’s a wonderful place for a family. I don’t think you’re going to find that in ... today, really.

And I just --- well I'll have to tell Mike real quick Mike, I was just given a gem the other day, sent me a box with information about, you've heard of Miller and Lux, the big boys? This box, which was sent to me, had the will of Mr. Miller in it. It's very interesting. It had old pictures of his home that he had in California, which was absolutely huge. And just lots of documentation, and I'm thinking maybe that might be another, number three, another book. I say once the bug bites you, you kind of, you're gone. Thank you very much, and thank you for having me today. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: The next presenter is Jon and Donna Skovlin from Cove, co-authored three volumes. Much of the past 30 years of research for their books was done while Jon worked in the forest, a range researcher hearing fireside stories of ... and ... Donna was caught up in the detective work for documents making it possible for them to write *Henry Vaughn*, *In Pursuit of the McCartys*, and *The Murder of John Hawk*. Jon and Donna.

DONNA SKOVLIN: We want to thank you for the opportunity to be here, and help you celebrate the opening of your new Western History Room. I think you'll find it will be a magnet for researchers who are looking for the history of this area. And as you get more collections, there'll be people coming from all around to get history ---

WOMAN: Hold the mike closer.

DONNA SKOVLIN: There will be people coming from all around to research in your facility. A little bit of background about us. We live in Union County, and we live in a little town of Cove, which is a bedroom community for the city of LaGrande. And although we live in Union County, our hearts are in Wallowa County. My great grandfather and his two brothers were the first, some of the first stockmen that came into the Wallowa area in 1871. And Jon, who was there when he was 14 years old, and he has

worked summers for one of the early sheep men, Jade Dobbins, and one of the later day cow ranchers, Mike Brennan. He also worked summers for the U.S. Forest Service. And all these jobs took him into the remote parts of the country, and he had just absorbed that history of that area. So together we have written three books. One is *Hank Vaughan, 1849-1893, A Hell Raising Horse Trader Of The Bunchgrass Territory*. This came out in '92, and he is a desperado, he operated out of Pendleton. The book is now out of print, and we're hoping that the Oregon State University Press will re-print it.

Our second book was *In Pursuit of the McCartys*, came out in 2002. The parties were in-laws of Hank Vaughan, and we followed their outlaw ways in Colorado, Nevada and Utah, Oregon, Washington. And we were fortunate, both books were reviewed by the Oregon State Historical Society, and the reviews were published in their quarterly. But we have not had much success having them try to sell the books in their bookstore.

Our last book was, *The Murder of John Hawk*. And also --- and that was just last year. And although this story takes place in Wallowa County of Eastern Oregon, it's a tale that was repeated often throughout the West as the homesteaders moved out, and moved the Indians out of their homelands.

And then the stockmen had trouble amongst themselves and there was a murder over land disputes and possible cattle theft. So in our research for the Vaughan, actually we spent about 30 years collecting information about Hank Vaughan. And with that --- and the ... books we traveled around quite a bit with all the territories where they had operated. But with the John Hawk book it was pretty local and we were pretty restricted in, as the sources, because there are few local newspapers of that area that have survived. But we did have two very rich sources of information. And they're the kind of sources

that could be lost without facilities like you will have here, where people can bring in their histories and know that they will be kept care of and be available for other people to use. So one of our sources was the reminiscence of A. D. Findley, and he was one of the earliest settlers in the Wallowa Valley. His son Ross then spent years organizing his father's papers, and the results were printed in a serial form in the *Joseph Herald* in 1957 to 1959.

The other source has an interesting history as well. John Harland Horner came to Wallowa County in the late 1800's. As a young man he became county assessor, which took him out to all parts of the county, trying to find out how much money he could collect in taxes for the county. And all during this time he wrote down whatever he heard about the place names, about Indian stories, and about any interesting facts about the residents. In our retirement we began laboriously typing up his notes, starting with the beginning of the alphabet. He wrote about place names. And most of them appear in the *McArthur's Oregon Geographic Names*, anything that is in there about Wallowa County is probably from Horner's work.

He began collaborating with Grace Bartlett, another Wallowa County historian, and some of their articles appeared in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*. When he died in 1954, his relatives came to the county, boxed up all of his stuff and took it to California. Apparently a rift had developed between them and Grace Bartlett, and it was said that Wallowa County would never see the Horner papers as long as she was alive. She died in 1992, but even then the Horner papers were not returned. Then mysteriously they turned up in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, or the Oregon Historical Society Headquarters in Portland. They had possibly been there for several years, but nobody in Wallowa County

was told about it. So several more years passed, and then the Historical Society finally got around to making copies of these papers, and they bound them in five volumes, and there is about 1500 pages of material. The Enterprise Library, well the Historical Society sent three copies to Wallowa County, so one is in the Enterprise Library, and one is at the County Clerk's office, and one is in the County Museum. And we're the first authors that have extensively used this material. And it wasn't an easy task, because at that time the material was not indexed. But thanks to many volunteers most of those volumes are indexed now. And we're so fortunate that those papers were saved, and they are now available for people to use. There are surely hundreds, and probably thousands of collections like that, that will be lost unless there are more facilities like this where people can feel that they can donate their papers and that they will be cared for and appreciated. And we certainly wish you success in developing your new Western History Room. (Applause)

JON SKOVLIN: I'd like to pick up a little on what Geri said with the inventory of cemeteries throughout the county. We are very familiar with Joe Bollman, and she helped us on quite a few research projects. And to have those cemetery records available to historians is a real bonus ... I'd like to thank Sandy Crittenden for inviting us here. But I'd like to do a talk about two items. One is my association with John Scharff, and another is about some of the friends and people that we have met in our historical research and writing. I guess really appropriate that you've tied the opening with the John Scharff Refuge. [Wildlife Festival] John has contributed a lot I think into the oral history. And my first association with John was in 1951. I had graduated from Oregon State Wildlife Management, and one of the final field trips was to the station here. And

John, of course, was the first one ... early evening ... on our experience throughout the station there. He showed us where to camp, this was in 1951, this was 55 years ago, we didn't have much from Oregon State in the way of facilities. We didn't even have sleeping bags, we were in bedrolls in those days, and camped out over open fire. John was very active in the Range Society. He was particularly active with the youth groups. And the Range Society sponsored a group of seminars for high school students, and it was carried out in Logan Valley right here, on the Malheur Forest. And John would come up and he'd ... these young students with all kinds of oral history, a lot about Logan Valley and the surrounding area.

Rube Long was another one from Fort Rock that was, talked about those early days here. And he, or Jackman was a, from Oregon State in Range Extension, was another person who really contributed to the society. One of the things that John Scharff had to do was to turn a lot of wetland pasture run by pretty much early day cowboys into a refuge, and that was quite the challenge. So he really took an interest in range management, and fostered a lot of what we have there in the refuge today. I hope that the Luce collection might have some of John's oral histories. Are there any on file that we know? I think the refuge also has a few tapes of John's.

I'd like to turn now to some of the friends that we have met over the years. One such couple is Jim and Sandy Crittenden. You would think an archivist, one of the historians, historian, she is quite remarkable in collecting history. Now we got involved with Sandy by her interest in A. H. Robie who had the Diamond Ranch, in association with several other people. And he sold that then to Pete French, and Peter French's widow was ---

WOMAN: A. H. Robie's widow.

JON SKOVIN: A. H. Robie's widow. Then later became the third wife of Mike Barnes. So that all came around and pretty well hooked together. And in the book we mentioned something about the A. H. Robie being a nephew of ... Stevens who came out in the early railroad census, inventory of the Great Northern in the 1850's, and that perhaps he was from England. Well Sandy had read the book and, oh five or six years ago she wanted us to verify how does ... Robie was a nephew to --- and then so it turns out that we didn't find out. We looked all through our records, all the files and things that we had gathered together about Robie and his wife Martha, and we didn't find out until last night that Sandy actually found where we had found the reference about ... in England first, and then coming out West. But it took that kind of finesse to find out how we really came to be in the, in the sister's search for ... I think with that, unless there might be any questions we'll end on the presentation. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: And our final author Claudette Morning Pruitt, who recently moved to Burns and found one of our historical homes that she is renovating to its original condition and doing research for her second book. She published *Come Take A History Journey Along the Galice Trail*, about the area, people around Galice where she grew up north of Grants Pass. She is now working on a history of cowboys who passed through Harney Basin in the 1870's, and left their footprints in Harney County soil. Claudette. She is so devoted ... she would have sat in that chair ... while I cleaned the dust off of it.

CLAUDETTE PRUITT: I really didn't plan to speak here. So thank you very much for inviting me, and I'll try to tell you a little bit. I'm not a stranger to this country. We always came here when we were young married, and kids, and always came with Uncle

Veltie Pruitt. We went up on the Steens Mountain with the horses. And Aunt Ina Pruitt was the artist here, and painted the Steens. Maybe you have seen some of her artwork. You have. And so anyway, Grants Pass was getting a little bit too populated for me. I had a fun time doing my book, *Come Take a Historic Journey Along the Galice Trail*. I was raised in Galice, and came there in '41 as a five year old. And entered the first grade in a little one room schoolhouse. I graduated in the 8th grade from that school-house, the only student that year. But my mom was the last teacher also, and so I do have some, quite a bit of history from there. Nobody had done this history, and I had lived in Montana for fifteen years and I came back to Grants Pass and volunteered just in Historical Society and realized that no one had done anything on the Galice area, the Rogue River, pertaining to what I did. So I thought, let's do it. And so just as all of you have talked about, and the problems and the troubles that I started with a legal pad, pencils and erasers. And somebody said, "You better get on the computer". Well I said, "I don't know how to do a computer." So that's where I really got into it. So I was 9 years in gathering this information. And I put to rest a lot of speculation and romanticizing things, and tried to get back to what was the original history of this area. And I've had many thank yous and appreciations for this. So there are some mistakes, of course, as any book does have, and I don't think there has been a perfect book written, just the Bible. But I had a fun journey with this trip, with this book, and the people that I have met from all over. I have many relatives and descendents of the people that I talked about, and they are so appreciative from Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, and all over.

And so now I'm on another journey. I came here last summer when all the books were boxed up, and I could not get into the research. And I had been to Montana, the

prior January, and visiting the old irrigator that we had on the ranch, that was dying of cancer. And somebody placed a book in my hands, and it was done on the area where I lived. I lived on a 5100-acre ranch up the Bolder River. And it was just above Yellowstone Park. But that --- the journey now has brought me here to Burns, and this old house. And the whole thing has just been a fun, fun experience and I appreciate it. I appreciate this community that's got very, very precious, it really is. And I hope it keeps its flavor, and I think that Sandra has done so wonderful with this room, and the gathering of the history, and I'm so thankful for all of that.

So I hope to have another book out. So, it's of the cowboys that came into Harney County from California, came up in here and established the, probably the society here, had established the first school. Did the first home here within the city limits of Burns. But they went on, they were on the heels of Pete French, and they went on to Montana in 1881, and they all established the ranch that I lived on and on down the Boulder River. And so I'm hopeful that I can take a tour over there and show people those ranches that are still today. And Aldrich Mountains are a part of one of the men, and so the Fraiser Gulch is part of my history, so it's really exciting to see the intermingling of history. Thank you so much. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: If Jack Drinkwater remembers when we were talking about this at one of our budget meetings, one of the learned members of the committee said, "You know this is an economic development activity". And it has proven to be that, hasn't it? And it will be more so in the future.

Well the power of the podium, some of you that have heard me speak before, you've heard me talk about the power of the podium. So Dee Swisher is here, I

understand you've written a book. Would you like to talk about it for a couple, three minutes or so, five, ten?

DEE SWISHER: I've known this kid since he was a baby, so I can talk to him anyway I want to.

BILL WILBER: When I had hair?

DEE SWISHER: Yeah, when you had hair and you were cute. (Laughter) Well my book is nothing compared to all these people that you've listened to before. I was raised on a cattle ranch in northern Nevada, north of Winnemucca. And I married a buckaroo from Jordan Valley. And through the years we have known some of the most outstanding old buckaroos and shearers. So we got to talking one day about, did so and so tell you this story, or did so and so tell you that story. And we laughed so hard remembering the tales that we heard from these old guys. So Bill says, "Why don't you write about them?" So that's what I did. And I did the artwork for the book because I love to draw. And these are two buckaroos that are taking a bath, a Saturday night bath in the water trough before they go to town to get drunk and play with the girls. (Laughter) And if you guys had known buckaroos, you know what I'm talking about.

Bill and I came to Harney County in 1956, and we worked on ranches, and I cooked for the buckaroos so I got to know a lot of them. We were both raised on cattle ranches, and we were born during the depression years. Each of us knew quite a number of pioneer cattlemen, buckaroos, cowboys and ranch hands who still lived on the ranches. Some were gone before the beginning of the 20th century. Each was a unique character in his own right. The following stories in this book are true stories that we each experienced or heard from our respected parents. Some of the names were changed out

of respect of their relatives who are still living. Some of the stories might be an embarrassment to them. On the most part these unique old fellows are gone now. Modern cattle operations are very different from what they were 50 or 100 years ago. It's time to tell their stories before they are forgotten. So that's my contribution. And I hope that if you read this that you will laugh. I wrote other stories and some of them were pretty sad about the buckaroos. And my husband said, "Take them out; just do funny stories about buckaroos". So, that's what I did. So thank you. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: As you get older, and I'm getting older, you lose your listening, which maybe I didn't do when I was working with Dr. Merrill. And I learned some things about Claire McGill Luce today that I think Pauline should share with you, because it is a little different angle on what has been reported, or what I told you, and she has a better source because your father or your mother was on the library board years ago. Would you like to please?

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Thank you Bill for letting me bring this day full circle. This is unplanned, I just was sharing some memories with Bill and he said, "Well would you like to tell everybody?" And I'm known for one who likes to tell everybody everything. So I said, "Yes I would." I want to say that if Claire McGill Luce were here today I think she would be the proudest woman on earth.

It was about 1970 when she contacted the Harney County Library and said, "I want to give a thirty thousand dollar," I don't know whether it was called an endowment or a grant, or what it was called, but it was a thirty thousand dollar --- she put money in stock, Time-Warner stock. And the library was to receive this, a thousand dollars a year for thirty years. She said, I'm not going to tell Jen Slater of the library, librarian, at the

time --- my mother was on the library board. She [Claire] said, “Well I’m not going to tell you what you have to do with the money, I’m not going to put any ties on it, that it is my desire and my hope that you will use this money to become a collection of Eastern Oregon history.” And she said, “I think that a good way to start would be an oral history of Harney County”.

The Library Board and Jen Slater took her very seriously and they contacted the University of Oregon, hired a graduate student to start the oral history program. And someone said over 400, I don’t know, I lost track long ago. But if she were here today and heard these wonderful people who have talked about their books and their saving of the history and their passions for the history, if she were here today to see that wonderful room that Sandy and Jolyn have put together. I can’t say enough when I walked out there, and I can’t say enough about what a wonderful thing Sandra and Jolyn have done for this community. They have had help from others, but it takes someone with the ability and the willingness to do things perfectly, and Sandra, you have done things perfectly.

I just wanted to share that with you because it was a dream of a woman who was born at Andrews, who graduated from Burns Union High School, with a classmate of people like Sam Gunderson, and who grew up at Harney, and who left this community to do some really great things throughout the world. She had a fascinating history herself, and, you know, died at a very young age, and is back with us now in her resting place. But she had the love for this community, and the willingness to give that grant, that gift, that has turned into how many million dollars did you say Bill?

BILL WILBER: 2.2.

PAULINE BRAYMEN: 2.2 million dollars. So what a wonderful thing. I just wanted to share that all with you, and to add my gratefulness for what has been done with the Western History Room, it's great. Thanks. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: Thank you. I would now like to ask Sandy if you would come up here. I asked her a couple hours ago if she would share two or three experiences that she has had in working in the Western Heritage Room, and particularly those that might be intriguing and or stumped her, or whatever comes to her mind. So, Sandy ---

SANDRA CRITTENDEN: What an act to follow. Probably the most interesting thing is the reaction I get from almost every visitor that comes into this new facility. It is almost like a step across the entry and a button is pushed and they want to tell their story. And every one of these stories intertwines with another, and so consequently I can see history just slipping out the door when they turn to leave. And I have found that the most important thing to me is get this history down in print. Somehow we've got to record this. And my job is trying to entice these people, come back with it, write it any way you want. It's all exciting, it doesn't make any difference whether we had the biggest ranch, or the littlest, or we had a big house or a little house. It's the history; we're all making a history.

And so on the way in today I had a feeling Bill would say something about this to me, and I thought to myself, how I did this. How is this day going to come to this point? It has been years and years of work, and I thought I can't believe I got to be a part of this. And it's these people's history, it is all of our history, and I helped start it because of an angel who stood beside me through hours and hours ... work and pretty soon this collection opened up. And I want other people to enjoy this the way I have. It's

something that very few communities have, it's something that we've had, that is nothing more than a collection of books that this dear man put together, but it is our heritage. And because of my connection with Mr. Robie, because he somehow enticed me to look for his story, what he is doing, now here we are, come full circle and I said to myself, "What did he feel like when he came in this valley with that first sawmill?" There was nothing here but Camp Harney, and it was nothing but a spot, it wasn't even built. And here we are with this. This is the feeling he must have had when his brand new wonderful facilities here, that we are the pioneers, and history collection that we can put together.

And all I want to say is thank you everybody for what you've done to make this possible. Thank you for being here today, and please come back. It's your facility, it's your history, and you are welcome anytime. Thank you all very much. (Applause)

BILL WILBER: I have the newspaper article that a fellow from *The Oregonian* wrote. His name is Richard Cockle, and he came here last February. My cousin was editorial page editor for *The Oregonian* and I called him on the phone and said we have something here that is unique, so Mr. Cockle showed up and wrote this story. So I'm going to make this available if you haven't seen it. If you take one with you, it's, I think describes very well what we have seen today. Thanks Pauline for adding, probably correcting, a little bit of history. Is there anything that anybody, any group would like to share with the group? Anything we missed, anything you need to hear?

MAN: I think we probably, maybe gave the Oregon Historical Society a bad name, however without them we wouldn't have the collection.

WOMAN: Yeah, right.

BILL WILBER: Very good.

MAN: In their own way.

BILL WILBER: I would offer the Heritage Room will continue to seek to buy valuable, historical books. And if you are so inclined, a donation to the foundation would be very much appreciated, because there are some holes that still can be filled, and we would appreciate anything that you could help us with. If there is nothing else from anybody, this concludes our afternoon. And I want to thank you very much also for being here.

Thanks again. (Applause)

END OF TAPE

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