

HARNEY COUNTY LIBRARY, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #487

Subject: Harvey "Red" and Margaret Dunbar

Place: Dunbar Ranch, Frenchglen Oregon

Date: August 17, 2017

Interviewers: Laurie and John O'Connor

LAURIE: This is Laurie O'Connor from the Harney County Library. And it is Thursday, August 17, 2017. And I am here helping my husband, John O'Connor, interview Red Dunbar of...What is your address up here, Red? What would you call this?

RED DUNBAR: Keg Springs Ranch, 44819 Jack Mountain Road.

LAURIE: Okay.

RED: Frenchglen. And 97736.

LAURIE: Alright. I'm going to put this over here. And Red, where were you born?

RED: In Martin, South Dakota on Potato Creek, in a dugout.

LAURIE: And what was the date?

RED: March 30, '33.

JOHN O'CONNOR: The dirty 30's.

RED: 3-3-3-3.

LAURIE: And what were the names of your parents, Red?

RED: Robert Dunbar and Bertha Dunbar.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

LAURIE: And they lived in South Dakota for some time?

RED: Yeah. Mother come from Iowa. And my Dad come from Nebraska. He was a Scotsman. And she was an Irishman.

JOHN: Oh. That's where the red hair comes from.

LAURIE: And when did you move to Oregon?

RED: In '39. We come to Payette [Idaho].

LAURIE: The whole family moved?

RED: Yep. Yep. We sold the cattle and horses and everything in South Dakota and kept the land. We had two homesteads. And we kept them. And I went back years later. My windmill was gone. And my barn was gone. There was nothing. They left the old sod house and the cyclone cellar. And the only way you knew there was fences, there was a post broke off.

LAURIE: You moved during The Depression?

RED: Yeah.

LAURIE: That's why they moved?

RED: Yes. Yes. That's why we moved. Yep. Starved out.

LAURIE: Okay, John, it's all yours. If you want to use any of these, you can. Otherwise, you guys just visit. Would you introduce yourself, John? Just say your name.

JOHN: Oh. This is John O'Connor. And I'm doing the interview. Alright. Let's see here.

LAURIE: Where did you go to school mostly, Red? So was it mostly in Payette?

RED: I went to first grade in Payette and the second grade in Ontario...and maybe the third grade. And the fourth grade in Juntura.

LAURIE: Kept moving?

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: And back to Fruitland in the fifth grade, sixth grade. And I think the seventh and eighth was in Drewsey. And then went to Crane.

LAURIE: Well, you went to Crane also. You graduated from Crane High School?

RED: In '52.

LAURIE: Wow.

RED: And then Uncle Sam majored me in Korea. And I went there for a couple of years. I come home and...John Scharff needed a heavy equipment operator. And I qualified. I was licensed. And I told him I'll help you until you find somebody. Well, a voice woke me up at two o'clock in the morning. Says, you're a taxpayer not a tax taker. I laid there and laid there. I couldn't go back to sleep. I got up and drank coffee. And John always comes to the office at six o'clock and helped the-- We only had one clerk. And I told him that I had to go. But he tried to send me to Willows, California. And I'd had all I wanted with California rodeo. I didn't want no more of that. But Willows was a lot like Harney County, I found out later. But anyway, I had a job with my crew boss at White Horse. John says, there's a guy in Frenchglen needs a guy. Stop and talk to him. So we did. And he told us that he was from California. And he says, if I buy cows, you buy cows. And then we got started. And then he said one day, can you make it? I says, I can make it my way but not your way. He wanted a fat cow, whether she had a calf or not. I says, "They've got to have a calf for me."

JOHN: Yeah.

RED? Well anyway, he sold it, lock, stock and barrel.

LAURIE: The ranch and everything?

RED: The ranch, the cattle, everything. He walked away and we bought it.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

JOHN: Well, good.

RED: And so--

JOHN: And what year was that?

RED: Sixty-two? Early sixties.

MARGARET DUNBAR: It wasn't final until '64.

LAURIE: You mean final sale? The sale was final in '64? And who was this guy? Who had the place? Whose place was it?

RED: Benny Dunn.

LAURIE: Oh, okay.

RED: Benny Dunn owned the place that we bought.

MARGARET: He was a dental supply--

RED: He sold dental plates and acrylic all over the West. Yeah, he was a good guy. He was a good man.

MARGARET: He had a friend up here at Oscar Down's. And they'd come up here and-- How they started coming up here-- they just loved this country!

JOHN: So Red, before you settled down and got married and everything, tell us about your rodeo career.

RED: Well, when we were in high school, we went to John Day to the junior rodeos and everything. And Joe and Jerry Miller, they were two of them. And Taft, he had an old '48 Jeep with a horse rack. He would bring a horse. And we'd get in the musical chair and the calf roping and whatever. And took the horse, the three of us and---

JOHN: One horse.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: One horse, yeah. And had them staggered where we could make it. And Joe and Jerry, they rode bucking horses. And I rode bulls and bucking horses. And then when I got back from Korea, we rodeoed. And she--

MARGARET: Well first, you got married.

RED: Well, I got married. Yeah, we were going to Ida-- or Nevada.

MARGARET: That's how I went rodeoing with him in '54. We come back in-- what year?

RED: Yeah, '54.

MARGARET: Yeah. And we got married May of '54. And then we went rodeoing again.

RED: We went down to Idaho...or to Nevada. And we got married. And the next day we went to the rodeo. I drew old Dirty Ed. He was a big, gray horse. He wouldn't come out of the chute. So Marvin Marrs shot-- hot shot. The horse went so high, I hit my head on the bar. And everybody thought I'd fall off. Well, I rode him clear to the other end. And he bucked me off in the bull pen. Over the fence, into the bull pen. Yeah. But I won the bronc ride.

JOHN: Good.

RED: Yeah, won in the bronc ride. And so we went on to Idaho. And we bought this twenty-eight-foot trailer.

LAURIE: Big time. Woohoo.

RED: Yeah. That was a big trailer. And so we come home. And I went to work for construction, Arntz Construction. I was building a road from the Y up to Idlewild. And we did that. And we paved it. I worked on the flagging. I run the CATs. I run the "eucs". I run the grader. I was a powder man. I was everything. And this big ol' German, 6'5", he

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

fired me. And we get in the pickup and head to Burns. "I can't fire you. Nobody can run your equipment." So, we drove back-- back again.

And I had to drill into this rim. And we put whole cases of dynamite in it. And I told this Cat man, I said that's a lot of dynamite. He says, oh, no. No. It will just fall over, and I'll smooth it out. And that's exactly-- Poof! Just fell over. He had a U-blade. He just smoothed her out. And his brother, Bill, was a-- a guy that [pioneered?]. And I fell all the trees and blowed all the stumps. And we run out of caps. And so he gave me a roll of fuses. So I had so many stumps to blow. So I cut the fuses, twelve inches. And here comes this guy. How much fuse you got? And I said, a foot. Oh, man! He run behind this tree. And it blowed. I was fired again. So, off to town we go. Well, here I come back. Done that three times. The last time I was-- had a compressor[?]. And it rained. And I couldn't make this hill. He said, "Let me try that." He couldn't make the hill either. And he was so damn mad, he fired me. And we went--

LAURIE: He fired you again?

RED: He was something else. Yeah. But then, see, this Jim Freeman from Drewsey, he was the powder man. But they shipped him to Tonopah on another job. And that's how---

MARGARET: Do you want coffee?

RED: Yes. And that's how I ended up with the powder.

JOHN: More or less learned, on-the-job training. Didn't go to any school for it.

RED: It was. And after we got that job done, they had a logging road to build down toward Van to the Silvies. And that's where I did all the falling and stuff. And we got down in January. And we'd go along. And the elk would be right along the road like cows.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

JOHN: Really?

RED: Yeah.

JOHN: Got so used to everything.

RED: This big ol' bull, everyday he'd be right along the road and never move. Yeah.

LAURIE: Where else did you build roads, Red? What other roads did you work on?

RED: Just the one going up to Idlewild and that spur. And it was Bill Arntz. He wanted me to go with him. But I wouldn't join the Union. And so when the Union guys would come, I had to go hide. And anyway, I didn't go with him. And so that's when I went to work for Ted Graves, out there. And we moved in there. And uh, Mildred, she was the boss. And this guy went and got drunk. And she was goin' in to get a hired man Monday. And I had all the bossing I wanted of her. And I said, you better get another one. And so we left. And that's when we-- Where did we go from there?

MARGARET: The Refuge [Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Princeton OR]

RED: The Refuge, I went to work for John [Scharff].

LAURIE: What year was that then?

RED: Five-five? Yeah, '55.

Margaret: We went to Double O.

RED: We went to Double O.

LAURIE: Oh, you lived at the Double O?

RED: We spent a winter there with Judd and Judy Wise.

JOHN: Oh, boy.

RED: Built water holes and--

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

JOHN: Marselle was your dad?

MARGARET: Um hmm.

JOHN: And he worked at the Refuge?

MARGARET: Um hmm.

LAURIE: What was your maiden name, Margaret?

MARGARET: Leake, L-e-a-k-e.

LAURIE: L-e-a-k-e. Okay. And he was the maintenance supervisor or the head of maintenance?

MARGARET: No. He was head mechanic. At that time, they did all their mechanic work on the Refuge. All equipment was done at the Refuge. They didn't send it away, to Burns.

JOHN: Yeah, Marv [Jess] just talked a lot about Marselle.

MARGARET: Um hmm.

JOHN: He worked with him.

RED: They had light plants.

MARGARET: Yeah. And he serviced-- He serviced the P Ranch and the hotel at Frenchglen, and then wherever else. And, well, it's not my interview. But he was a good man.

JOHN: Yeah.

LAURIE: I think we'll do an interview with you also. But another time, okay?

MARGARET: Alright.

LAURIE: If you're willing.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: Yeah. We'd go to Tule Lake and bring back dump trucks and whatever we needed. We'd go up into Washington and the one down by Nampa, Idaho. And we was rip-rappin' Knox Pond. And I had this Ford. I told you, a Dodge back from Tule Lake. So they give me this Ford. And you know how the holes get. And these guys were shifting in the holes and breaking axles. Well, I never did break an axle. We were up with all that.

JOHN: You've got to hit them pretty hard to break an axle. But it can be done.

RED: Well, and they'd shift at the bottom, you know? And they'd just snap them. Yeah.

MARGARET: Did you haul grain at that time?

RED: Hmm?

MARGARET: Were you there when they hauled grain from different refuges from Burns?

RED: No.

MARGARET: Oh.

RED: Grain, hmm um. No.

LAURIE: They weren't farming yet, on this one?

RED: What?

LAURIE: Were they farming this---

RED: Oh, I done all the disking from Double O, Suicide and-- East and West Grain Camp. And down the Sod House they had the potatoes and alfalfa.

JOHN: I'll be darned.

RED: Yeah. Yeah, I done all that. And they had guys that come and drilled. And Suicide was what they had to drill with a Cat, a D2 Cat.

JOHN: I'll be darned.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: Yeah.

RED: And we raised a lot of grain, had a lot. We had millions of wildlife. We don't have none today.

JOHN: No. The soil is so good down there.

RED: You could raise any thing you know? Yeah, they had a lot of potatoes. And they had milk cows. And they would come to the P Ranch and get their good hay.

JOHN: Yeah.

LAURIE: Do you have any idea how many acres were cultivated, a general idea?

RED: I have none.

LAURIE: Several sections?

RED: We had a big field at Double O. And then Suicide was probably a quarter of a section. Well, you've got a better idea than I have.

JOHN: Yeah.

RED: And then East Grain Camp, it was three or four hundred acres. And the West Grain Camp was a couple a hundred acres. Yeah.

LAURIE: Yeah. A couple sections, anyway.

RED: Yeah. Yeah, we raised. And then later, they burned the damn building down at BV [Buena Vista]. And that's when they quit...leased the farming out to---

JOHN: Norman Ranches? No, no.

MARGARET: Before that.

RED: Oh, what was his name?

MARGARET: Hap [Earl] Smith.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: Yeah, Hap Smith. He done it for years.

MARGARET: Hap. H-a-p

MARGARET: I don't remember that fire.

RED: He got half of the grain. And the Refuge got half.

JOHN: That was fair.

RED: Yep.

MARGARET: And he'd farm that-- where Taylor hays now. And they'd flood him out, all the time. [*laughing*]

JOHN: Well, they still do that. They still flood out your rake bunch.

MARGARET: Yeah.

RED: Tyler's, they done a lot of haying. And BV [Buena Vista], that's where they get the majority of their hay. That's all under water.

MARGARET: This year.

RED: Andy Renc told them, you can shut the water off. But you've got to drain it.

There's a drain on the other end. And they didn't drain it.

JOHN: It just sat there.

RED: Yeah. So they've got to wait until it dries up or going out.

JOHN: Yeah. And the irrigating on the Refuge, when did the ranchers quit doing it?

RED: When Joe Mazzoni was here, he stopped me. About the last year that he was here, they didn't let us irrigate no more. And nobody else irrigated. They didn't know how.

And so we got weeds. There were big chunks of ground he wouldn't let us hay. Went into thistles. And they blew it all over the Steens Mountain, Jack Mountain. Yeah. Now, we got all kinds of stuff there. And then the next guy that come, he-- he did it different.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

LAURIE: Who was after Joe Mazzoni? Was that...

JOHN: "Snake Eyes", Constantino.

RED: Yeah, Joe Constan-- Constantino.

JOHN: And then his sidekick was Hopsing-- Richard Voss. Remember Richard.

RED: Oh, yeah.

JOHN: We called him "Hopsing". [*Chuckles*]

LAURIE: Careful.

JOHN: Oh, that's alright. Yeah. That irrigation system worked well, if you ran it right, you know?

RED: When we done it, everybody took care of their fields. We didn't have all the damn weeds. The weeds John [Scharff] sprayed. And he didn't keep an assistant very long because he made them spray. And they helped on the fence. He built a fence over at Double O. And the assistant manager was one of the better ones. And that's just the way John was.

MARGARET: He'd get out and work with them.

JOHN: Yeah.

RED: He made Joe [Constantino] go up there and spray on the Blitzen. And that's when Joe hated him. And he tried to do everything to under[mine] John. Yeah.

MARGARET: Be careful. I hope you're not recording some of this.

LAURIE: It's there. But it won't go-- It doesn't have to be in the transcript.

MARGARET: We'll get in trouble with the names.

LAURIE: I don't think so. I think a lot of them are gone.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: Oh.

LAURIE: And that's the same thing Marv Jess told us too. You know, the change in the Refuge, when the management wanted to manage everything, that's when it didn't get managed.

RED: Joe Constantino, he was going to trade me the forty acres – we had forty acres on the other side of the road – for land back at the Sod House. But the two, the assistant manager and the other guy, they said no. In thirty days, Joe was in Alaska. They transferred him.

JOHN: I'll be darned.

RED: Yep. Yeah. Yep. Yeah, that happened to BLM when we come out here. He says, if you get this [*inaudible*] burned off, we'll seed it for you. And so it went on-- not too long. He told me that if we clear this brush, we'd give you more AUMs. Well, that didn't happen either. And they shipped him to Alaska. Yeah. Do you remember that? He looked like Roy Rogers.

MARGARET: Oh, he's passed away too.

RED: Yeah. He come out here and get on horseback and ride with me all over the range.

MARGARET: He was a good man.

LAURIE: Huh?

MARGARET: He was dubbed...BLM [*unintelligible*].

RED: Yeah. He told me, he said, they're not going to give you AUMs. He says, I'd put it back into crested wheat. And that's what we did. We put into crested wheat. Yeah, we was putting up 2,000 tons hay.

JOHN: Oh, man.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

LAURIE: Really?

MARGARET: Right. Here.

LAURIE: Right here?

MARGARET: Here and over the hill.

RED: And we've got another valley. Yeah. I got dust pneumonia, because of all the loose hay. And yeah.

MARGARET: It was rye hay. We worked like dogs. All these fields that are now crested wheat, here and over the hill.

RED: Yeah. We farmed the whole damned thing. We drove our tractors twenty-four hours a day. She'd take a shot. And we had Buster [George C.] Miller here. And he'd take a shot. And I'd take a shot. And we just kept that thing going. And then we had another guy that was seeding. We got done Thanksgiving. You know, he couldn't drill before ten o'clock. But he'd drill after.

MARGARET: Fred Witzel

RED: Yeah, ol' Fred [Riccard?]. Yeah. He'd build fence. And he wore long johns. And back then, we had ticks. She [Margaret] had fifty ticks. We turned the cattle out. And she was walking with the calves. We got fifty ticks off her.

JOHN: My gosh.

RED: And he-- he ate sulfur. And the sulfur would keep the ticks from biting him.

JOHN: Is that right?

RED: Yeah. So I used sulfur in molasses. That's what I did.

MARGARET: Sorghum.

RED: Yeah, sorghum.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

JOHN: Sorghum, yeah. Well, and the ticks, they were mostly in the spring?

RED: Oh, yeah. When we'd turn down in April. Yeah.

JOHN: Yeah. They're still bad, I think in places.

RED: Well, we never had none this year. And the same way with the rattlesnakes. They were thick here. We had them come right under our lawn mower, right out here by the house. And then we had them come to the watering trough, back in the fifties, sixties, when it was dry. And then we'd hay down here. And you'd go back after dinner, there would be two, three rattlesnakes laying in the shade of the tractor.

LAURIE: But you don't see many now.

RED: No. No. Where they gone, I don't know. It's just like antelope. The other day I seen hundreds of them. And here come them scouts, when they found out they had a tag. Antelope all gone.

JOHN: Yeah. We saw one coming in.

RED: Did you see one?

JOHN: Yeah.

RED: Well, they'll be coming back when it's over. I don't know when it's over. But when they had camps at the Foster Flat. And they run the cattle off. I didn't see no antelope. But they had their camps. Yeah, they get right close--

LAURIE: So they make the-- They get the cattle moving too when they show up to hunt.

JOHN: Well, and then---

RED: They go home. The cattle go---

JOHN: And then they camp on the water holes.

RED: Yeah. Yeah, they get too close.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: They're really intelligent. Right at the watering hole and scare the cattle off.

RED: Well, there's no brush. And it's clean, except for a cow pie or two. But, yeah.

MARGARET: But as a whole, the hunters have been nice to us.

RED: Oh, yeah.

MARGARET: But they do dumb things, like camping on the water.

RED: We had four people in their seventies, retired, at camp right down here on this hill. Had them for five days. They each had a four-wheeler. And they was in their seventies. And they were everywhere. And I went to yearlings over here. And when they was gone, here was yearlings over here in the water hole. So I come home and check the gates. The gates are alright. So I got on my horse and I rode the fence. And on this hill-- The gate was right down here. You could see it. Right through there, they snipped that fence. And they was the only ones who was here. And you see the four-wheel tracks. So you don't trust nobody.

JOHN: No. Why didn't they use the gate?

RED: Yeah. Yeah.

MARGARET: Right. That's what we thought.

RED: Yeah. You could see the gate right down there. Yeah.

JOHN: So Buck Miller, you say worked here for a little while?

RED: Buster.

MARGARET: Buster, Buck's son.

RED: Buster, Buck Miller's son.

JOHN: Okay. And you knew Buck Miller?

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: Oh, yeah. He had the Oregon End, yeah. He was a hell of a roper.

MARGARET: Buster and Red were in high school together.

RED: In the same grade.

JOHN: Oh, okay.

MARGARET: They were buddies.

RED: Yeah.

JOHN: And you all was good neighbors with the Millers.

RED: Oh, yeah. We had Joe and Jerry. Joe come to Crane. And he weighed about ninety-eight pounds. And we just become friends at the beginning. And then Jerry, he come next a couple years. And then I helped his mother. She had a ranch down there at Crane. And I would go after school and get a truck load of hay or a truck load of cotton cake, fifty or 100 pound sacks of cotton cake.

JOHN: Man.

RED: And that truck was full. And I'd park it up against the granary, at midnight. And she would feed that-- all by herself. She done that all by herself.

LAURIE: What was her name?

RED: Nellie.

LAURIE: Nellie Miller.

RED: Nellie Miller, yeah.

LAURIE: And she was married to...?

RED: Taft.

LAURIE: Taft.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: Yeah. Split the sheets. And she went to Crane and bought that ranch. Yeah. And she was the best-hearted person. She would go to Idaho, or down there. And she would come home with a rack on her pickup full of potatoes and onion, or washers and dryers. After we got electricity, she tried to give us one. But we'd already got one through the power company. So we didn't need it. But she-- That's the way she did.

JOHN: I'll be darned.

RED: Yeah.

MARGARET: She always filled her kids' pantries. I mean she was good to the kids, all the kids.

RED: Yeah. She was wonderful.

LAURIE: So Nellie was the mother to which one of---

MARGARET: Don, Jerry, Joe.

RED: Gene.

LAURIE: Oh. I thought some of those were half-brothers. I didn't know that.

RED: No, no. No. No. They was... They was---

MARGARET: Nellie and Taft were their parents.

RED: Virginia. It was Virginia and Gene and Lucille and Tiny and Don and Joe and Jerry.

JOHN: Boy. That was quite a family.

RED: Seven of them. Yeah. Yeah. They lived down the road here, twenty miles. And we neighbored. We helped one another buckaroo. We had haying. I bought a swather. I'd cut the hay. And they had power bucks. They'd buck for us. We just traded work. And all the

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

time that they were there, that's the way it was. And then Jerry, he left. And he went to Crane and took over his mother's.

LAURIE: I see. So Jerry took over Nellie's?

RED: Nellie's, yeah. And then Joe was here.

MARGARET: And then he left.

RED: Yeah. He got fed up. And he left. And Taft let Don come back. See, Don had left earlier on and took horses and cattle and took all his interests. But he come back and they ended up with it.

LAURIE: So was that the Catlow Place?

RED: Yeah, the Catlow um hmm.

LAURIE: Is that the place where Gary is now?

RED: Rock Creek.

LAURIE: Rock Creek.

JOHN: And Don went to the Double O. He bought---

LAURIE: He bought that.

RED: And another thing. Pete Obiague. Nellie put the money down to buy that for Don.

LAURIE: Wow.

JOHN: I'll be darned.

RED: Yeah. That's a fact, yeah.

LAURIE: That's interesting.

JOHN: Yeah.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: Pete Obiague. They run sheep. And they liked it. And you'd never thought Don would have been a sheep guy. But they made him quit the sheep and go back to cattle. I don't know why, but--- Anyway, I just read an article where sheep was at \$1.80 something a pound?

JOHN: Um hmm. Yeah. They're getting up there.

RED: Hell, yeah. You can make a lot more money in sheep.

JOHN: Oh, yeah. It might come back, you know? Who in the hell are you going to get to herd them though? I don't know.

RED: Oh, we'd get...somebody.

LAURIE: You never had sheep?

RED: No. No. I'm no sheep man.

MARGARET: We had two when Cathy was in 4-H.

RED: Well, when she was in 4-H she had sheep, yeah. We had-- You know, they had all these damn sheep on Steens Mountain. And they was all over. And we were coming up Wickert Lane. And here's this big, ol' buck sheep. And we had a Buick. And we caught the sheep and put him in the Buick. Run him home. And he was mean. Cathy, she wasn't very big. And he'd knock her down. Or she'd knock him-- He'd knock her down. And I tried to kill him. I beat the heck out of him.

JOHN: Never learned, did ya?

RED: Clemens...Rex Clemens had a horse that the kids wanted. And so he says, I'll trade you for that sheep.

JOHN: We got a deal. [*laughing*]

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: So, yeah. So they got a horse. And he got a sheep. [*chuckles*] And that was a really nice horse. Yeah.

MARGARET: And then she had a sheep at 4-H.

RED: In 4-H, yeah. Yeah. But they was all over here. They got away, you know. They was everywhere.

JOHN: Do you remember-- Maybe it was before you were here. But I was interested in this winter fat that used to be all over the Catlow-- white sage, winter fat?

RED: Um hmm.

JOHN: Loren Wood who run the Roaring Springs told me about what he knew about it. And the Shirk [David Shirk] place that's down there used to be a lot of winter fat, white sage.

RED: Shirk? That was on the other side.

LAURIE: The Shirk Ranch.

RED: That was on the other side.

MARGARET: Well, you were here when Loren Wood was down at--

RED: But Howard Andersen---

MARGARET: ---[unintelligible] company.

RED: Howard Anderson, he owned the Blitzen. And he had the fattest cattle everywhere. I mean they-- All they had was white sage, pepper weed, and tallow weed.

JOHN: Yeah. That's good stuff.

RED: That was the three deal. And he had a ranch in Diamond. And him and her, when they died they donated the money to the swimming hole in Burns. They're the ones that paid for that swimming hole. And now they don't have their name there.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

LAURIE: Is that right?

RED: Yeah. They took the name and done something else.

LAURIE: What was her name?

RED: Howard Anderson.

MARGARET: Howard. But I don't remember---

RED: I don't know her name.

MARGARET: I can't remember.

RED: We lost our horses at Rock Creek. And we went down there. And Howard, he says, I know where they're at. So he jumps in the car. And Jerry, he gets in the back, so we wouldn't have to open the gate. And here ol' Howard goes. And the dust was that deep. You couldn't even see Jerry in the back. [*all chuckle*] We found the horses. Yeah.

MARGARET: That's when you were in high school?

RED: That's when we were in high school, yeah. But he was so funny. Jerry, he thought he was going to--

JOHN: Yeah. And he got dusted pretty good.

RED: Yeah.

JOHN: But anyway, what I was looking at was to see how much of it was left, because they couldn't stand up to grazing year round.

RED: I haven't been down there. I don't know. I don't know. They operate so different at Roaring Springs. I doubt that there's anything left.

MARGARET: Between Roaring Springs and Rock Creek---

RED: The two of them.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: ---yeah, they're both over-grazed, lots of times.

RED: They ate everything but the sagebrush.

JOHN: But Loren was saying that he had cattle that wintered out on just that white sage.

Tough winters. But he said, boy, they were fat in the spring.

RED: You bet. Yeah. Yeah, that's true.

JOHN: And that's the kind of stuff I'd like to see---

RED: We need more of it.

JOHN: ---more of it. You bet. And it would be good for the wildlife and everything, but--

MARGARET: I think there is some up Hog [Hollow?], isn't there?

RED: No.

MARGARET: No?

RED: There's a patch somewhere here. I don't remember where in the hell it is now. But it's pretty well gone. Yeah.

JOHN: Yeah. So working at the Refuge and--

LAURIE: How long did you work at the Refuge, Red? How many years?

RED: Going on two years.

LAURIE: Just two years.

RED: Yeah.

MARGARET: Gosh, he could have retired and all.

LAURIE: It isn't that good.

MARGARET: He wouldn't do it. He just---

RED: Well, you know, it wasn't for me.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

LAURIE: It takes something out of you, you know? It can.

RED: When I went up and I told John [Scharff] I was leaving, he said, "That happened to me." He says, "I was here two years and it wasn't for me." He was a sheepherder before.

LAURIE: Right.

RED: And the townspeople convinced him that he was in a driver's seat was good for--
The refuge was in Harney County. Keep the money here. And so John stayed. That's why.

MARGARET: He was a good man because he started out with Forest Service---

RED: Yeah. Um hmm.

MARGARET: ---and was at the Refuge until he retired.

RED: He was a sheepherder before he was Forest Service.

MARGARET: And he was well liked. Although, we know people that didn't like him.
But you can't please everybody.

JOHN: He used to come out to the Double O because he liked gardens, our garden.

LAURIE: He liked us being there.

JOHN: The gardening, he liked gardens and stuff.

RED: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. She [Florence Scharff] was good. That was a beautiful refuge.
I don't know where the pictures are. But she---

LAURIE: I've got some.

RED: She had the flowers and all. It's a dirty shame that isn't that way today.

MARGARET: She worked just as hard as him. I mean in her way.

RED: Yes, she did.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: She worked hard on the flowers.

RED: Yeah.

LAURIE: They had a greenhouse, just for those flowers. They had a special greenhouse down at the P Ranch.

RED: Oh.

LAURIE: Yeah. Florence and John told me all about it. They grew their own annual flowers for all those flower boxes. They started all of those.

MARGARET: Yeah, she worked hard at it. And they didn't have children. And so that was her life, the flowers.

RED: But John, he had Appaloosa horses. And Tom Davies, he was at P Ranch. And he would come help us brand. And that appy would buck with him. Never bucked him off. But one time this guy didn't use a field. And so he wanted Miller and us to take cattle and clean it up. And so John was looking for Tom. Couldn't find him. He come down there and Tom was helping us work cows. *[laughing]*

MARGARET: Well, you were telling your life. You didn't mention that you worked, and broke horses and worked extra to pay for this place.

RED: Well, when we bought this place, I was riding colts for everybody-- anybody. And I was working for Rex Clemens on the side. I never took money. But he had equipment, tractors, loaders, power bucks.

JOHN: Trade?

RED: He would update his stuff. And I'd get the old stuff. And that's how we paid for the cattle. And we only made \$125 a month. And still, we saved money. And when we did, we'd buy a cow.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: Taft Miller sold us eleven heifers to get us started.

RED: Yeah. He bought-- He wanted a light plant. And didn't have no power. And so he bought an eleven-hundred-dollar light plant, or something like that, for these heifers.

They were heifers that weren't branded, you know, big hundred dollar heifers.

MARGARET: Taft liked us. He'd come over here and helped us calve our heifers one winter.

RED: We couldn't get no help. We had a hundred and fifty head of heifers we was calving out. And I was giving out. And so I told her, I'm going to go to town and get somebody. So I went in there. And they'd started this welfare. And a month before that, you could hire anybody. But nobody wanted to come. So I come home. Here she has three heifers in the alley that she had roped and pulled the calves. And so I got the ropes off. And here come Taft. I'm going to help you calve heifers. He said, "I'll take them during the day. You take them at night." So I'd get up and feed in the morning. And then I would take the heifers at night. And, yeah. Yeah, he stayed with us. And we calved them out.

JOHN: Yeah.

RED: Yeah, he had a heart of gold. But he got so damned mad at me when I come home. He wanted to go to California and find gold. And so, he signed ten checks for me. They had Bill Farland[?], Bud Gill, Curtis, and Tine Frank, an Indian, to pitch his hay. Two loads of hay a day to a thousand cows. Dead cattle everywhere. And I went to town. And I got a timber and fixed the derrick. And Bill, he used his pickup and run the derrick and fed the cattle. And then they-- When they got through haying, they just parked everything, and the tractors were all froze up. And so I took the heads off and cleaned

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

them up. And I got two tractors running. So they had two wagons. And they had to pull the damn hay for two miles in. And I wanted a handyman jack. And so his sister was cooking-- "Baby". And she told me, she says, "You get that jack. If he has a fit, I'll buy it." She had a pickup and she needed it. Well, when he come back-- When I paid-- Well, when I got it all going, I asked Bill, I said, "Can you do this?" He says, "Well, I'm doing it anyway." And so I laid Bud off and Curtis off and just kept him and the Indian.

Because Tine, he was old, but he was a good man. And so, Taft come back, and I told him that I'd paid Bill \$175, fifty extra dollars because he was using his pickup. Oh, he blowed his top! He says, "I don't pay nobody more than \$125. That's it." And so, he just run at me. And he wouldn't talk. So, when we were moving cattle from the Refuge, and they all went back to school-- the kids-- And so Taft and I, we had them. And so I had this one horse that I called Snake. He's strike you. He'd bite ya, kick ya. And it was drizzling rain. And so I caught him. And it was my last day. Taft says, "You're not going to ride him?" I said, "This is my last day, so I'm going to do it." And so, we loaded him. We got the [cattle] in, and we were coming up the hill. And there used to be a fence that went across by the dump. And I went up to shut-- or open the gate, and he kicked a gallon syrup can, and blowed up and bucked and put cattle across the cattle guard. I got the gate open.

MARGARET: The cattle guard wasn't there then.

RED: On the highway.

MARGARET: Oh, was it?

RED: Yeah. There was a cattle guard on the highway.

MARGARET: Oh. Okay.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: And we got to the homestead. And we got home. And Taft was riding Snowball, a black horse. And he unsaddled that horse faster than anybody. He opened the first gate. Opened the second gate. Opened the third gate by the granary. I turned my horse loose. He says, nobody is going to ride that horse. Joe and Jerry, they had a bet-- which one was going to ride him that summer. Because I went rodeoing. I left. And nobody rode him.

MARGARET: Red, what year was that? I don't think the cattle guard was there.

RED: Yeah, maybe not.

MARGARET: Because we didn't have the cattle guard for years, until they got the highway.

RED: Yeah, maybe not. But--

MARGARET: We didn't get the highway for years and years.

RED: Yeah.

LAURIE: The horse managed to scatter the cattle, regardless.

MARGARET: Yeah.

JOHN: So when you were breaking horses, you told me one time about Harvey Hamilton. You offered to break a horse for him. And he didn't want you to do it. And tell me how he-- what you seen when he did his own training?

RED: George Hamilton had a gray horse and a palomino horse. And I told him, I said, "Bring him over and I'll ride him for you, and I won't charge you a dime."

JOHN: Right.

RED: He was my neighbor. And so he didn't come and didn't come. And one day I was going to Burns, to the town. And I looked out there, and here this rider was on a palomino horse. He had a collar over his neck. And he had this gray horse tied to his tail.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

And so I seen George later. And I said, "Was that you, George, out there?" Yeah. He says when the palomino would buck, the collar would fall down and hit him in the face. And the gray horse would fall backwards. He broke that palomino. And he wasn't about fourteen and a half hands high. And I was a smart aleck. We were branding down there for him. And I told him I liked these sixteen hand horses so you didn't drag your feet in the brush. He said, "When I was your age, I thought the same thing. But now I'm old. You can get on these little horses." And anyway, he rode that palomino horse until he died.

MARGARET: That was Harvey. You keep saying George.

RED: That was not Harvey. It was George. It was George Allan. Harvey lived in Diamond.

MARGARET: Oh, you're right.

RED: George lived over here.

LAURIE: And George lived up here?

RED: Yeah. He lived up there at Juniper Ranch-- the Juniper Ranch. Yeah.

MARGARET: Okay. You're right.

JOHN: Yeah.

RED: Yeah. Yeah, he wouldn't kill rattlesnakes. He wouldn't kill porcupines. They'd come in the house and---

MARGARET: He pruned trees over there, so the porcupines---

LAURIE: Could get in them.

MARGARET: Yeah.

RED: He would go to town---

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: He was a good guy, really. But he was so dirty. Oh.

RED: He had fleas. Anyway, he'd go to town and he'd come home with a whole pickup full of dog food and put them in his granary. He had seven dogs. And you would see him moving cows with seven dogs. Nobody would help him. But he and the dogs did.

Now him and Matt-- I was coming home. And here they was, almost to Weed Lake.

And they was after their work horses for haying. Matt, he was in his slippers. And

George, he had a pair of shoes on. And I said the horses were headed for Weed Lake.

Boy, away they went. And they got the horses. I seen them later and they got the horses.

Yeah.

MARGARET: They were good neighbors to us.

RED: Oh, I helped them brand. And I'd heel the calves. And we had an innertube on a rope. And the three of us, we branded calves every two or three years. Yeah. We'd go from the water hole-- They had lots. We'd go from water hole to water hole.

JOHN: Yeah.

RED: So you bet.

JOHN: I saw that dam that he'd made up there.

LAURIE: Oh, that was George Hamilton?

JOHN: Yeah.

LAURIE: I've been there.

JOHN: Yeah. Laurie and I were up there.

MARGARET: A lot of work to that.

RED: With buckets and a wheelbarrow, cement. I don't know how long it took him to build that. But it was quite a dam.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

JOHN: Yeah.

MARGARET: I don't even know who owns that anymore.

JOHN: I know Johnny Witzel kind of looks over it. But they've got it all---

RED: A real estate outfit from California owns it. And they don't want to get rid of it.

Well, they've got such a price on it nobody wants it for that.

JOHN: There's a lot of rock on that place.

RED: Yeah. [*chuckling*] And they can't get water, no wells.

JOHN: No. No.

RED: No.

JOHN: We we're looking at it because we were looking to rent some pasture, when we had cattle. And we went up there, and we went to the courthouse and found out who owned it and then wrote them a letter that we'd be interested in renting it. And I don't-- We never got an answer, so--

LAURIE: No. That's when Witzel was running his horses.

JOHN: Yeah. But Witzel got upset. He said, you know, you got no business--

LAURIE: That was twenty-five, thirty years ago.

JOHN: Yeah. But he got upset about somebody coming to rent it.

LAURIE: Because he was using it for free.

JOHN: Yeah. And I said, well, I was going to pay. And then Irish Lake, that was another spot there. No, he-- he didn't like to have anybody---

MARGARET: He claimed it.

JOHN: ---you know, getting in on whatever he had there.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: Oh. Yeah, that's him.

LAURIE: Where would you get horses, when...I mean, where did the horses come from in this country? What kind of horses did you guys ride?

RED: Just desert horses.

LAURIE: Desert horses.

RED: Yeah. They're just horses that people turned out, years and years ago. But they're hot-- full-blooded horses. When I was a kid, I run horses out there on Owyhee with Tommy Davis. He sold his ranch. And he had to get all of his horses out. And he had these remounts. And he had cases and cases of papers. And we run all the way from Jordan Valley, clear to Harper. And we put the geldings on the train and took the mares and colts to Vale and had a horse sale. And he had all these papers on these horses. And then we went back and we run all of the horses from down the river to Vale. Yeah. And then he finally-- He leased his cows to Ned [Edward W.] Howard at Drewsey. And, yeah.

JOHN: So they're mostly cold-blooded horses? Not many---

RED: They were hot-blooded horses. You couldn't beat on them. They'd fight you.

JOHN: They'd get mad.

RED: They would fight you, fight you, fight you. But these cold-blooded horses here, you would take your, quirt-- I rode with a quirt. You snap them three times on the nose and they'll just throw their head up. Yeah, there's a big difference.

JOHN: Oh, yeah. You bet.

MARGARET: [*Pouring coffee*]

JOHN: Yeah. Where I was in the Dakotas, near Ekalaka, Montana, there was these Took

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

Brothers that raised bucking horses. And they had a white Arabian stud that was just bad. He was-- He was a bad, you know. And then they just put them on them broomtails. And then they got these horses. And they'd take them to Miles City to the bucking horse sale. And they had some of the top bucking horses. And I got one of them. This is like in '69. And he was a big paint horse. And the guy got him at the bucking horse sale. And he said, I'll trade you. And I traded him my bronc saddle for the horse. So I got the horse home and didn't handle him. He wasn't halter broke, really. And I unloaded him in the corral. And then I just went to rope him. And then I had a snubbing post. And as soon as that rope hit his neck, he came right after me with his ears back. And I had never in my life had that happen. And I was like, Holy Cow, how am I going to get around on this guy, you know? And he-- I finally got him throwed and tied him down to where he couldn't get up and left him lay there for most of the day. And every once in a while I'd walk by. And when he would try to bite, I'd kick him in the head. And then he'd quit. And later that day I thought, well, I've got to let him up and see what we can do here. And I had a halter on him. And I tied the halter to another post. And when I undid all the ropes and let him up, he got up. And I'm standing there going, Holy Cow, I hope-- Because you know? And he stood up. And he pinned his ears. And I thought, here it comes. And he then he threw them ahead, and he was fine. But it took a long---

RED: It changed that quick.

JOHN: Yeah. Yeah. But he never did amount to much. You'd be riding him and he'd kick your spurs, you know?

RED: Yeah. After we run horses, I lived with Tommy and Stacie for two years, or three and---

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: You was just a boy.

RED: Yeah.

LAURIE: You were young. That was in school still.

RED: I was nine. I was nine-years old when [Conley?] come by and pick me up the last day of school, and we went to run horses. And I was with him. And I got five dollars a week. And I could buy a milkshake and a hamburger -- they had a little station by the school -- for \$2.50. Yeah. And so after, I got this Go West, Young Guy. Anyway, I put everything in a little gunny sack. I stepped on up on the train in Ontario. It took me all day to get to Juntura. I got to Juntura and there was a guy wanting a rake jockey. And he wanted to know if I could rake. And I, yeah. You know how to work a horse? Yeah. So he hired me. And we went to-- Russell Robinson. We went to Otis Valley. And I had. I had four head of mares, two in the morning, two in the afternoon. And they all had colts. I broke them to lead. And he give me one of the colts. I was going to stay with him and go to school. And he was going to work me out seven colts to ride, fourteen miles a day. And after haying I drewed a blank. I don't know what happened. But when I woke up, I was up at Ned Howard's haying. He was still haying. And school was started for two weeks. And run the bucks and he baled it. And Ned was on this side of the baler. And I was on this side. You stick the wire through to tie 'em. Well, they put them on a net and put them on a stack. Well, they had a wino. And he wasn't doing his job, so they put me up there. So I was doing it. And so Ned says, well, you suppose you could do that stacking? Haven't you watched? I've been doing it. The wino, he wasn't doing anything. So I finished there. And Charlie Miler, he says why don't you stay with me and go to school? I only live a mile from the school. So that's what happened. I stayed there.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: You raked hay with the team, remember?

RED: Well, yeah.

MARGARET: Because I've got a picture of that.

RED: We raked hay with two-- a team in the morning and a team in the afternoon. Well, mares, they wanted to go to their colts. So I trotted in at noon. And Russell says, you can trot in. You can trot out. I took it to heart. I trotted out to work.

JOHN: Trot in, trot out.

RED: But when I was at Miler's, I was—worked. We had a snubbing post here. And we had a canal. And the bronco horse is here and the colt was here. And I come away from that snubbing post. And that bronco horse, he had to outrun that colt so we didn't go in the river, or the canal. And that's how I started them colts. So anyway, they went-- He'd go to Ontario. And he'd get these winos. And they-- I had to give my horses up to them. And I'd start some more colts. And they had a rake with a bronco cart in front. And then they had one [of them?]. Well anyway, I was going to use the other one. And we had to go across the damn field that was niggerheads all over rough ground.

JOHN: Rough ground, yeah.

RED: And they got to tripping. And it scared this colt. And he got to running. And I didn't say whoa. And anyway, we had to go through the gate. And I couldn't get the horse to run fast enough. And they hooked the gate and the wheel and throwed me off. I wrecked my arm right here [*pointing*]. And so Hattie, she wanted to send me to the doctor. And I says, "There ain't nothing wrong!" She just poured some-- something in there and we healed it up anyway. And, yeah.

LAURIE: How old were you about then?

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: Huh?

LAURIE: How old then were you?

RED: Well, [Benny?] Robinson said I was eleven. I'm not really sure. I didn't pay that much attention. But I figured out I went to Milers about when I was twelve. And I stayed with them and went to grade school and high school. And, yeah.

LAURIE: Was that common for kids to go and leave their home, leave their families and go work out like that? Did a lot of kids do that?

RED: Oh, hell. When we was down there at Fruitland, they would take busloads of us kids. And we would hoe onions, corn. Anything that the Mexicans do today, we did, during World War II. We did that. And then they hauled us to Weiser to pick cherries. And here was this canal. Hell, we spent more time a swimming in the canal as we did picking cherries. But, oh man, they were good cherries.

JOHN: I bet.

RED: I didn't make no money. And the strawberries, I tried to do that and didn't make no money. But I could pick prunes and apricots and peaches and apples. And I could make more money than anybody because I was young and I could climb the ladder.

MARGARET: And ate them.

RED: Yeah.

LAURIE: Eat as many as you could.

RED: And potatoes, I pulled a sack between my legs. I could pick a half a sack. I couldn't pull no more than that. But I did that. You bet.

MARGARET: Well, you learned from your dad. You never talk about him. But he was a farmer. And he worked in the fields.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: Well, he worked at a sale yard in Ontario.

MARGARET: Oh, at first?

RED: Yeah. He never was—never farmed.

MARGARET: Oh, I didn't know that.

RED: No. Well, he had a farm, yeah. But he leased it out.

LAURIE: Did you have brothers and sisters that stayed in the area also? Who were your brothers and sisters, Red? Who else was in the family?

RED: Well, my oldest brother, he went to the Marines. And my sister, she married a sailor.

LAURIE: What was your older brother's name?

RED: Willis.

LAURIE: Willis. And your sister?

MARGARET: Which one?

RED: Norma. Norma, yeah.

MARGARET: He retired in NASA.

RED: Yeah. Her husband worked for NASA in Florida. And Mark, he was up in Baker logging.

MARGARET: They're all gone. Everybody's gone, except two sisters and Red, I think.

RED: Yeah.

LAURIE: Your two sisters, where do they live? Where do your two sisters live?

MARGARET: That's alive.

LAURIE: Who are your two sisters?

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: Your two sisters that are alive, where do they live?

RED: Oh. Well, I guess they both live in the Boise Valley. Yeah, they live in Boise Valley.

MARGARET: And Norma is in Florida.

RED: In Florida.

MARGARET: She's eighty-eight.

RED: And then I've got one brother in Arizona. That's it. Yeah.

MARGARET: It was a big family. That's why he left home. They had to leave to survive.

RED: I had a palomino horse, my saddle and my bridle, a Guernsey milk cow, a bicycle that I owned myself. And when I stepped on that train, I never looked back. I don't know what happened to anything. I had a whole new life. Yep.

JOHN: Well, I would call you a self-made man, you know?

RED: I don't know.

JOHN: Nobody give you a ranch and said---

RED: No. We started out---

MARGARET: We had to pay for it.

RED: We started out with a penny.

MARGARET: And this was just hard work.

RED: She had a pot and pans. And I had a car and a saddle horse. And we went from there.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: I had more than pots and pans. I bought them. I worked at the drive-in and bought them. I bought the pot-- kettles and two blankets and a set of dishes, when we got married. [*Chuckles*]

LAURIE: That's good.

MARGARET: And a sewing machine. You don't do that today. We talk about our grandson not having anything, but he's got more than we did. We didn't have no cows, when we got married.

RED: No. Fourteen other people had been here or was interested, but it was too far out. They wouldn't take it. And for some reason-- I've asked many times, why we were chosen.

LAURIE: To be here on this?

RED: Yeah.

JOHN: The fickle finger of fate is what it is. That's the way it is.

RED: Yeah.

JOHN: Yeah. Isolated. These desert ranches don't really appeal to the wealthy people. They like the ranches in Montana, Idaho, the mountains, river and---

RED: Yeah, show places-- show places. We got a place down there at Sod House, we bought in '79. And all the money went there, not here. And when I bought that place down there he says, are you selling this place up here? And I says no. I've got to have that to pay for this. He thought that we didn't have-- But we had this one pretty well paid for. We had our cows paid for. And that's about what happened. We paid for that one with this. And then we went through the flood, eight years of flood, eight days of fire and many droughts-- many droughts.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

JOHN: Yeah.

[Tape forwarded. Conversation different]

LAURIE: That was part of your wage, the gas?

RED: Yeah. Um hmm, yeah. Um hmm. Yep.

LAURIE: And that was working for whom?

RED: Billy Dunn-- or Benny Dunn.

LAURIE: Benny Dunn?

RED: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, he was a good guy. He come up here maybe three or four times a year. And whatever I was doing, I would just drop it and take him and show him the cattle and show him everything. He says, you're the first man that ever done that. Everybody else is buzzing around. And they just come in riding, or just going out or-- And you just---

MARGARET: Well, he was paying the bill.

RED: I says, you can't see what I've done while you've been gone, I shouldn't be here.

MARGARET: A lot of people didn't like him because he was from California, and had a dental-- whatever you call it.

RED: He didn't know cattle. And he would try to help. But you know, you can put a milk cow in the stanchion and pet her as she goes in there. Well, these wild cows don't work that way.

JOHN: No. You don't touch them.

RED: [*Chuckling*] He'd turn them back. And we'd have hell.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: I will always remember when you were loading cattle, he was here when we were shipping. And this cow crapped right down in your pockets, in your jacket and everything. And Benny just thought that was hilarious. I mean, he wouldn't touch it at all because he never did have that happen to him. And he came up here one winter, was feeding hay with the team. And Red bawled me out because we was way down at the other end of the field there, because they got away from me, just to see if I'd let them. But I couldn't hold them. And I got mad at him and cussed him out and walked to the house. Benny thought that was so funny.

RED: Benny asked me, he says, do you want a tractor or a team of horses? I'll take the team of horses. Well, he bought this sorrel and this roan horse. And this roan horse was dingy.

MARGARET: Um hmm.

RED: He would run. And he'd run, and he'd just wipe a fence out. And finally, we got rid of it. And we got a gray horse from Oregon State, the mate had died. And damn, they were good. And then the sorrel died. And we had to-- She weighed a ton. And I built the shafts. And we pulled the wagon with her alone with a load of hay. Yeah. Yeah, she was--

MARGARET: It was hard, awful hard. That was before we got the kids.

RED: Well, Millers, they had horses. I'd take them and work them. And they would break those double trees. You know, in the fall you'd have holes. They just-- I broke three double trees that one winter. Yeah.

LAURIE: Wow. That's a lot of pressure, a lot of weight.

RED: Yep. Yep.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

JOHN: So what time did you and Margaret decide to have some kids?

RED: Seven years after we was married.

LAURIE: So 1961?

MARGARET: Sixty-two, Andy.

RED: Sixty-two, Andy, '62.

LAURIE: And Cathy?

RED: Sixty-four.

MARGARET: And we are fortunate. They're still in the county. You know, Andy [Dunbar] is on the other end of the ranch. And Cathy [Ugalde] is over here at Fields. So we're lucky.

LAURIE: And you have grandkids close.

JOHN: Yeah.

MARGARET: And great-grandkids.

LAURIE: Great-grandkids, right.

RED: Yeah, the only one that we don't have is in Seattle.

LAURIE: And they have three children, Josh---

MARGARET: Four.

LAURIE: Four children.

MARGARET: They just were here with Andy and Vena for two weeks. And Andy and Vena said we love them, but we're sure glad they're going home. [Chuckles] That's a hard job when you're not used to four.

RED: You still got that boy in Florida?

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

JOHN: Yeah.

RED: He stayed there?

LAURIE: Yeah. Yeah, Kyle's friend, Wesley, is in Florida. And they have two children. Yeah. And I don't know that they'd ever be able to move back. He's got a good job. And they'd rather be here, but I don't think he could get the same kind of work. He loves his work.

JOHN: He likes to burn a lot of diesel and run equipment and stay busy.

RED: And stay with it, stay with it.

MARGARET: He's happy. That's the main thing.

LAURIE: That's the main thing as a parent.

JOHN: When I was at the Double O, when he was just six, seven years old, I'd let him run backhoe, anything. You'd be surprised how young them kids can learn to run stuff. And because he did all that experience, he just took right to it like a duck to water.

RED: That's the way Tucker. Tucker, he can run anything. He is really good. They need to clean these damn canals. And they don't. And Tucker, he could run that thing and clean them canals. I think he's a lot better for that than he is for buckarooing.

MARGARET: He comes and helps. But he's not a buckaroo.

RED: He's not a buckaroo. Yeah. I need a horse shoer and a buckaroo. And I ain't got any one.

JOHN: Yeah.

LAURIE: Yeah, none of our kids-- I mean, they're all good enough. But that's not what they want to do. That's not what they're really good at.

RED: That's right.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: You've got three?

LAURIE: We have the three and then a step-son. John had a son from an earlier marriage.

MARGARET: So you've got four.

LAURIE: Yeah.

MARGARET: Are they all boys?

LAURIE: Yeah.

JOHN: Yep. Didn't have any girls.

LAURIE: Nope.

MARGARET: How about granddaughters?

LAURIE: We've got two. We've got two now. Yeah. It's nice.

JOHN: Oh, and that one she really liked horses. All you've got to do is---

MARGARET: They do, the girls.

RED: Oh, girls like horses.

MARGARET: Andy and Vena didn't have any girls. And they've got two granddaughters-- three. Oh no, four, counting---

RED: Yeah. They've got four.

LAURIE: And now Tucker is marrying a woman---

MARGARET: Oh, she's a doll, that little girl.

JOHN: Oh, she is. She's a tough little girl.

MARGARET: Yeah, she is. And she is really a little farmer. But Andy and Vena never had girls. And they really enjoy the little girls.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

LAURIE: Yeah, that's true.

RED: Yeah, Andy needs you to come clean that cattle guard again.

JOHN: Oh, really?

RED: [*Chuckles*]

JOHN: Okay.

RED: They've got a cattle guard, you know, by the highway. Johnnie [O'Connor] comes in and cleans it out.

MARGARET: Which one?

RED: By the highway, there at Sod House.

MARGARET: I didn't know he did that.

RED: Yeah, he did.

MARGARET: When I left down there after the flood, I don't have much to do with that down there.

RED: We had a choice.

MARGARET: It's Andy and Vena.

RED: We had to move to Burns.

MARGARET: I'm there sometimes, but not--

RED: But we had to move back up here. And I told her, I says, the work is up here. Why go to Burns? And so we come back up here. And then when the flood disappeared, she wouldn't move back. No, she wasn't going to move back.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: That was enough for me. Once was enough. Like years and years ago, Taft Miller and Nellie lived down there, and, I think, Jerry. Or was it Joe, born down there at the Lake?

RED: Joe and Jerry.

MARGARET: And Taft said, when I left I was done with the lake. He said, I'll never go back. But then the Double O, he'd never-- I don't remember that story. Wasn't some of his family from the Double O?

LAURIE: George had a place there.

MARGARET: That's his dad, wasn't it?

RED: George.

LAURIE: George had a place. It's the place the Moons have now?

JOHN: Yeah. Um hmm.

RED: Yep. No. I think it's Hughet.

MARGARET: Yes. But before that was--

LAURIE: I'm not sure. I'm not sure how that worked.

MARGARET: I don't know.

LAURIE: I think the Hughets were there at the same time as George [Miller].

RED: Well, I know we run horses. And we'd stay there at the Hughet's place.

JOHN: Joe Miller, I talked to him a little while ago. And he was telling me a story about they'd go out there at the Double O and run horses. And he was just young.

RED: Yeah.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

JOHN: And Don and-- So his job was just to hold them. And doggone horse put his head down and rubbed the bridle off. And so the horse took off.

RED: And Don bulldogged him.

JOHN: That's what he told me. He said Don come along up there and bulldogged that horse, you know? And it was amazing, you know?

MARGARET: Joe was pretty young.

RED: Yeah, about nine. He was about nine. Yeah. When Taft was going to have Don come back, Joe says I helped him when I was a kid. And I damn sure ain't going to help him again. [*group laughs*] He hated that.

MARGARET: That's when he left.

RED: He left. Yeah, he left and went to Nevada and was gone a long time, yeah.

MARGARET: I think they made amends before Don died. I don't know that.

LAURIE: I think so. That's what I understood.

JOHN: Joe is a really good guy. When he lived there, out of Burns there, what lane was it on?

RED: Oh, yeah, the Hutchinson Place.

JOHN: There was a disabled guy that lived next to him. And that guy-- Oh, I bought a mule from that guy. He was disabled. But he said I've got this neighbor, Joe Miller. And he said this guy just is the best there's ever been.

MARGARET: He's just like his mother.

JOHN: Yeah.

RED: Yeah. He's just like his mother. Yeah.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: He's a good soul. You'd never see him in church, probably. But he's a good soul.

JOHN: Yeah.

MARGARET: And his kids, his daughter loves the ranch. She's back here. And she comes out every weekend.

RED: They live in Sparks, by Reno. And we don't know the particulars. But anyway, her husband is down there and she's up here. And she comes out every weekend and helps him. She's been doing that for, what, a year or so, because they're getting old.

MARGARET: Her kids are out of college.

RED: And she loves it. She loves it. She's kind of like Nellie, her grandma.

MARGARET: Yeah, she is. And what I was going to say is their son, Terry, he's not a-- He ropes. He's a good roper. But he's really not a buckaroo.

RED: No.

MARGARET: He's a mechanic. He worked for the county.

RED: He retired from the county.

MARGARET: Then their other daughter is a---

RED: Decorator.

MARGARET: ---interior decorator. I don't know her.

RED: Up at Olympia, her and her husband. And they make a lot of money.

MARGARET: Yeah, her and her husband work at it together. They must because they raised their own kids. Now they take in adopted kids and take them on cruises all the time. You don't go on cruises cheap.

JOHN: No.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: You know, you can say lot for Ingamoe and Joe. Here Terry is, over there. He's got weekends off. And he come out here. And he keeps Joe's equipment going and everything. Couldn't ask for a better boy. And then these two daughters, the one from Reno bought them the double-wide over there where you said. And they repaid them. But the one in Olympia, she found this caboose. It's a trailer. It looks just like a damn caboose. Anyway, she bought it. And they've got it down here. And that Joe and Ingamoe lived in it for a number of years. And then the one from Reno, she says, you guys like it out here [Catlow Valley] better than the other place. And so they sold that. And she bought another trailer for them and put in out there.

MARGARET: But they pay them back.

RED: They paid it back. Yeah. But that's the kind of kids they are. You couldn't--

JOHN: You bet. That's the way it should be.

MARGARET: Our kids have never had the money to do that.

LAURIE: They stayed ranching.

MARGARET: Yeah. They stayed ranching.

LAURIE: That was the problem.

MARGARET: They work, but--[*chuckles*]

LAURIE: It's the kids that go away that can make the money. Yeah. Could I ask you some more things just about this house and the original owner? Who built the stone house here? Who was that?

RED: Jacquet.

LAURIE: How do you spell that?

JOHN: It sounds French.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

MARGARET: J...I've got it wrote down.

LAURIE: You thought 1917.

RED: 1914.

LAURIE: 1914. And it was just that stone. That's your stone footprint. That's what was here.

RED: Eighteen inches wide, yep. And the lumber in it-- They wanted to build a new house. And I said---

MARGARET: Talk about a dirty house.

RED: The way the wind blows and everything. I didn't want a damned double wide.

JOHN: No.

RED: And so I said-- and then I just build this on.

MARGARET: J-A-Q-U-E-T

LAURIE: U-E-T-T. Two t's?

MARGARET: No. Just one. 1914.

JOHN: Where did they get the rock?

RED: Down here on the road. You see all them shale rocks? Oh, there was lots of shale rock, yeah.

MARGARET: And then after him, they built it and everything. And then they---

LAURIE: Well, you wrote it on the back of your plate?

MARGARET: Yes. I'll just hand you the plate.

LAURIE: What were the dimensions of that original house? Do you remember? I mean, that's a small house.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: Well, it's twenty-four-- probably twenty-four by thirty.

MARGARET: We should know from the flooring.

RED: Yeah, probably twenty-four by thirty.

LAURIE: That's about the right.

RED: Yeah, it's a little longer than it is wide.

LAURIE: That's interesting.

RED: Yeah. Yeah. The one down there they built, the front room is really narrow. And then they've got the kitchen in the bedroom. But that rock comes from Nevada. They cut it. They got the saws and they cut it. Yeah.

LAURIE: And that was the same builder.

RED: No. Well, he helped.

LAURIE: Jacquet.

RED: He helped. His name was Ty Shaw. And yeah, he had that place down there where the rock house is. And then he had this over here. And they built that levy and farmed all that country. It would make two pivots. I always thought if I had a well in the middle there, I'd have a pivot here and a pivot there. You can grow anything. This year the God damn grass was like that. And them cattle stayed on that lake bed.

MARGARET: These people, these Jacquets, the girl came back, remember?

RED: Yeah, um hmm.

MARGARET: ---to see us. Andy and Cathy were here. So Andy remembers it distinctly. They went to Bend to be bricklayers-- or what do you call them?

JOHN: Stone masons.

MARGARET: Yeah, mason. And they came to see us. It was kind of

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

interesting. She said, well, can I go upstairs? Because it's just an attic. And we fixed it into an extra bedroom up there. She did. And she said, this is where we-- We kids' bedroom was upstairs. I don't remember how many kids she said there was. Do you?

RED: No. No. No, the horse runners used to stay here when the other guy had it.

MARGARET: I don't know if that means anything. But you might be able to see.

RED: Bailey. In 51---

MARGARET: Nelson came next.

RED: ---we come over Jack Mountain in January. And we got stuck. And then when we got here, he was a drunk, and he run Bailey off. And I was working at Rock Creek. So we went to Rock Creek. And they spent the night there. And then they come back. But when I first come here in '48, I come with Bob Kirk, Bob Arnold, Bob Bailey and me. We run horses in the same area that we are today, in '48. We stayed up here at the Bailey homestead.

MARGARET: I wouldn't tell that, if I was you, Red. Those guys you just mentioned didn't have very good reputations! [*laughing*]

RED: Well, you know, Kirk, he wasn't much. Robert here was a hell of a fence builder. But he was an alcoholic. And--

JOHN: Yeah, working around all them personalities, from guys that were alcoholics. Did you ever work around any of them that really got a lot of religion?

RED: Probably have. I probably have.

MARGARET: Bailey did.

RED: Who?

MARGARET: The dad, Bailey. I don't know that you worked around the dad.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: Oh, yeah. He left here and become a preacher in Caldwell.

JOHN: Tom?

RED: Yeah. Yeah, he was a preacher in Caldwell. Yeah.

JOHN: I'll be darned.

RED: Yeah, him and Maxine, they used to come here and--

MARGARET: The first year we were here, they'd go through this corral.

LAURIE: Who's Oscar Downs, Margaret?

MARGARET: It's in the Museum, or historical room, Oscar Downs. This place over the hill was Oscar Downs'. And he had two sisters.

RED: First crested wheat in Harney County. It's right over there.

MARGARET: And he was here when we were here.

LAURIE: 1908, he was here?

MARGARET: Oh-nine.

LAURIE: Nineteen oh-nine.

MARGARET: Yeah. He came, him and his sisters. But when we came here in '57, he was still here. His sisters weren't. But he was. He was a bachelor.

RED: Well, his brother homesteaded in Waterhole Canyon down here. And that's where the school house was. And they had gardens that could grow anything. Yeah, that was Charlie, Charlie Downs. And then Oscar and his sister, they homesteaded over here.

JOHN: Are there any cemeteries in the area here or graveyards?

RED: Not that I know of. Not that I know of.

MARGARET: I thought I found a---

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: Reuben, I think they homesteaded down here.

MARGARET: Yeah. But a cemetery, I thought I found a baby's grave out here in this field.

RED: That was Reuben.

MARGARET: Was it?

LAURIE: Oh.

MARGARET: But there was no marker. But the rock, I don't think I could take it to you today. But it's in that field.

RED: I could. Yeah.

LAURIE: So that was another family that was up here?

RED: Yeah, yeah, Reubens and Jacquets.

MARGARET: They married. The Jacquet brothers married the Reuben sisters.

LAURIE: Oh, both.

MARGARET: Um hmm. And that's why they call that hill out here Reuben Hill.

LAURIE: Okay.

MARGARET: I can't imagine how they lived because that lady told us that the brothers would go to Roaring Springs and hay, team and wagon, and leave the women here. And they shot jackrabbits.

RED: Oh, they had snares in the fences. They'd snare rabbits and coyotes. They got paid for the ears.

MARGARET: I bet they thought they was in heaven when they got to leave and go to Bend. [*all laughing*] It was awful hard out here because the road, when we came here wasn't much.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

RED: They had just trails.

JOHN: Did Sammie Boyce get over into this area at all?

RED: No. He was over by Wagontire. He was just out of Wagontire.

LAURIE: His history, we know a little.

JOHN: There was traps over there that he had for running horses. And him and Hannah Meyers-- [separate conversation in background]-- had a pickup with a stock rack. And they pitched loose hay into that around Burns, stomp it down. And they drove all the way to Wagontire to feed the cattle in the winter. Pete and Argetta Williams were telling me that.

RED: Oh, Pete. Yeah.

MARGARET: I'd forgotten that. And I didn't know much about the Nelsons. Marcus did. He didn't remember-- He knew Oscar. But he didn't know Jacquets. And he knew Nelson that lived here. And they weren't here very long. I don't know.

LAURIE: They were right on this place?

RED: Yeah. They had to have been. Yeah.

MARGARET: There might be something in the---

RED: And after that, Earl McCline bought it.

MARGARET: Yeah, Earl McCline wasn't here very long. He was---

LAURIE: There was a McCline in there too?

MARGARET: I didn't put his name on because he wasn't here very long. And then Benny Dunn.

RED: Yeah, Benny Dunn, he bought this place down here. And they built a house that's our barn.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

LAURIE: The big one?

MARGARET: Our barn.

LAURIE: The barn was the first house?

RED: He built that house down there. And woke up one morning and he said, we ought to be a farming. That valley was sagebrush. So they went to farming. And they never finished the house. So when we bought it, we needed a barn. So we jacked it up, put it on skids and took a Ford 5,000 tractor and that D4 Cat and pulled it up here.

MARGARET: And that's our barn.

RED: Yeah. [*chuckling*]

MARGARET: At least we saved what they started.

RED: We should have made a house out of it. But we didn't have no money. And we was buying cows. That's the difference today. They don't do that.

JOHN: No.

RED: No. They just spend their money.

MARGARET: Well, Red still-- Is that still going?

JOHN: Oh, it's been going. You bet.

LAURIE: Do you want me to end it? Do you want to just visit a bit?

MARGARET: Yeah.

JOHN: Off the record.

LAURIE: So, anybody have the time?

JOHN: Yeah, I got the time right here.

MARGARET: It's twenty to 12:00.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #487-- HARVEY "RED" DUNBAR

LAURIE: It is 11:43, and we are ending our interview with Red and Margaret Dunbar.

[End of Interview]