

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #86 - Sides A/B

Subject: Ray Houston

Place: Paisley, Oregon

Date: June 23, 1992

Interviewer: Edward Gray

Release Form: No

EDWARD GRAY: ... Oregon, on June 23, 1992, with Ray Houston, born in 1910. Ray your father was Charlie, wasn't it?

RAY HOUSTON: Yep.

EDWARD: Your brother is Van. Sumner was your cousin?

RAY: No, Sumner was my oldest brother.

EDWARD: I've got all that, it's in that other folder. And Charlie Houston was your dad, and Fred Houston was your ---

RAY: Cousin.

EDWARD: --- cousin, okay. I have the --- I don't have that photograph.

RAY: Oh, I'm sure you don't have that picture. That's the last picture of Bill Brown, the last year we worked for him.

EDWARD: Wow!

RAY: That was taken at Stauffer.

EDWARD: Look at that chuck --- no it's not a chuck wagon.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh yeah it is.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay. I can't see worth a damn anymore.

RAY: Yeah, that's a chuck wagon.

EDWARD: Was this taken --- where at Stauffer, Ray?

RAY: Right out there in front of the house.

EDWARD: At the Forbes place?

RAY: No, at Stauffer, the old Stauffer Post Office.

EDWARD: Okay, that ---

RAY: Mrs. Perry.

EDWARD: Perry.

RAY: Did you ever hear of her?

EDWARD: Yeah. Oh, you got them all down here. Oh, I knew Jim Schroder worked for Bill Brown, because Neva wasn't sure if Jim worked for Bill Brown.

RAY: Yeah, sure.

EDWARD: He did. Sedrick Delore?

RAY: Sedrick, at Suplee.

EDWARD: Yeah, I know Alice Delore; I talked to her many a times.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: She lives up there all by herself.

RAY: Oh, she does?

EDWARD: Still lives by herself. Now who is Wayne?

RAY: That was my cousin, Floyd Houston's boy.

EDWARD: Where would that --- now is this with Bill Brown?

RAY: No, no that was at his place, Wayne, and Uncle Floyd's place.

EDWARD: Boy ---

RAY: That horse I was riding was 17 hands.

EDWARD: Looks pretty big. What was Wayne's last name?

RAY: Houston.

EDWARD: Houston? Somebody told me that they didn't know which was going to win, the Houston or the rabbits. (Laughter)

RAY: Well, that was the original, especially around Dad's place.

EDWARD: God, you guys had ---

RAY: We used to have rabbit drives, kill them by the hundreds and hundreds.

EDWARD: Can I use this one, Ray?

RAY: Yeah, yeah. But I'd like to have it back.

EDWARD: Oh yeah. I've got a problem though; I've got to show you some photos too. I'm not getting back to Eugene for another week. I'm going to be on Wagonfire, I'm going to go to Lakeview to see Bill Lane, and then go through the courthouse one more time. Then to Wagonfire for about two days, going through all this stuff again. And then over to Burns, and then back. So, I'm not getting back to Eugene until a week from today or tomorrow.

RAY: Well, that's all right, that's all right.

EDWARD: And I've got some pictures from Elaine. I've never lost any. That's a good one. I hope it comes out. I'll enlarge it a little bit. You know I'll have them enlarge it. Now what year was this?

RAY: That was in ---

EDWARD: '27?

RAY: '27 --- no. Yeah, it was '27, '27, the fall of '27.

EDWARD: All right.

RAY: I didn't know I had that picture. Alice Smith took that picture.

EDWARD: Okay.

RAY: That's George Smith.

EDWARD: Yeah, I saw his name in there. These are, you know, they're kind of hard to come by. But when I show you some of these, you're going to have a blast with them. We'll get the hard stuff

out of the way, I guess. Did you ever hear of the Chewaucan Mercantile Store?

RAY: It was right here when we came here.

EDWARD: Ah ha.

RAY: It was right there where the service station is now.

EDWARD: Service station, on Main Street?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: When did it disappear? Did it burn down or something?

RAY: Yeah. It burned down, but they was making a service station out of it. The people that had it bought this other building where the store is now and moved up into that building.

EDWARD: Okay the Chewaucan ---

RAY: They started to ... George Pike bought that place to make a service station out of it. And they just got all the buildings tore out of the way behind. This little service station ... on fire. The house didn't burn, it would have but ... if it hadn't had a lot of the building tore down.

EDWARD: Ray B. Jackson started that store, that Chewaucan Mercantile in 1910.

RAY: It could have.

EDWARD: Yeah. And he also started a bank here in 1910.

RAY: Did they, did you find out he taught school over here too?

EDWARD: Yeah. I haven't got a picture of him yet. All right, I'll get down to business here, boy. You went to work for Bill Brown in 1925, so you were 15 years old.

RAY: Was breaking horses.

EDWARD: Now I've calculated, there were six Houston's that worked for Bill Brown.

RAY: Well, there was Sumner, and Frank, and Van, myself ---

EDWARD: And Charlie.

RAY: Charlie and Fred.

EDWARD: Charlie was the buckaroo boss for a short period of time.

RAY: Sumner was buckaroo ---

EDWARD: Sumner.

RAY: He was the buckaroo boss the first year I was out there.

EDWARD: And Fred was ---

RAY: Fred wasn't there.

EDWARD: Fred was the buckaroo boss 1928 to '31, I think.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I've got all that written down.

RAY: Uh huh. Well see that was during the --- he was working for the bank. That was after Bill went broke. When Fred went out there, when we was gathering horses ---

EDWARD: You know Bill went broke, he mortgaged, in 1933 he mortgaged all his properties, which amounted to 36,680 acres, that's what he owned. Not counting Wagontire, because he had sold 900 acres to the Hutton's in 1932. But anyway, he borrowed \$45,000, paid it back in a year. Then he borrowed \$47,000 in 1934. A year later he didn't make that full payment, and a year later the Pacific Wool Growers Cooperation, Credit Union --- Pacific Wool Growers Credit Cooperation foreclosed on him. He owed \$33,000.

RAY: I know ---

EDWARD: In 1935.

RAY: I know he was going broke when I was ---

EDWARD: When you was working for him?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Why do you think he was going broke, Ray?

RAY: Well, he was spending too much money on his horses. He had seven bands of sheep then. He tried to give me a band of sheep, just begged me to take a band of sheep.

EDWARD: He had seven bands of sheep in 1925?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And how many were in one of his bands, would you take a guess?

RAY: Well, there was around twelve.

EDWARD: 1,200?

RAY: 1,200, most bands run 1,200.

EDWARD: So, he had approximately 8,400 sheep in 1925. Thank you, that helps.

RAY: Van should have told you that. Van helped him lamb.

EDWARD: Right, right.

RAY: He should have told you that.

EDWARD: They lambed, now does this make sense, they lambed at one time 11,000 sheep.

RAY: I don't doubt it a bit.

EDWARD: Over on Freezeout, Hardin, I think.

RAY: Yeah, the old Hardin place, up near Freezeout.

EDWARD: Yeah. So that's very possible, 11,000.

RAY: Went Long Hollow up there.

EDWARD: Long Hollow, yeah. So, he had seven bands in 1925, about 1,200 a band. Are these all ewes?

RAY: It was all, yeah there was seven bands they was lambing, they was lambing there.

EDWARD: That's quite a few sheep. I didn't know he had that many that late. But that's good, I'm glad I know that.

RAY: Well, the reason I remember that, because I was thinking, well where would I get a thousand head of sheep. Well, he said, "I'm morally certain we can figure, a thousand head of young ewes out of this seven bands we got here."

EDWARD: You glad you didn't do it?

RAY: Well, I would have been ...

EDWARD: Okay, let's get to the hard stuff. What the heck was it like, you were 15 or 16 years old, to gather wild --- to gather wild horses?

RAY: Just a good horse under you.

EDWARD: A damn good horse underneath you?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: How in the world did you --- how did they --- say a typical day, Ray; you're out at Lost Creek, the Sinks of Lost Creek, okay. What is a typical day as a buckaroo for Bill Brown?

RAY: A typical day is that the wrango boy got up, the cook got up, the wrango boy went and got, chased the cavvy in.

EDWARD: The cavvy --- which is the horses that you're going to ride.

RAY: The saddle horses. And we rotated our horses. We had a lot of horses because we rode them hard. And we had to have a lot of rest between ... But there was a little ---

EDWARD: What did you do, give a horse two or three days rest before you rode it again?

RAY: Uh huh, always.

EDWARD: Always.

RAY: Yeah. Because everyone of them horses, when we was running horses hard, we would run them for 20 miles. And they'd never --- we'd favor them all we could, but they was never down to a trot, they was still in a long gallop.

EDWARD: Always galloping?

RAY: You had to when you had a 100, or 150 head of horses ... the first thing we cleared out ... backstop ... out here someplace.

EDWARD: A backstop?

RAY: Yeah. If you wanted two men to go out, ride out there in front of the horses, they'd just get off the horse and sit down. These other ... is going to make a great big circle. Pretty soon they got these horses running. And when they start running, they start turning these horses right straight on the go, and they start picking up horses. And that's the reason you got to be a horseback, because these horses coming up, getting up ahead of these horses coming through there, you got a horse enough to leave this bunch. There is another pair or two coming behind you, to get clear on up there and start turning these horses.

EDWARD: Turn them, which direction you want them to ---

RAY: Yeah, yeah. By the time they get up there, then this other little bunch of horses, these other guys are shoving into them ... up there, I'm shoving this bunch of horses right straight into that bunch of horses coming up. And as soon as they come together we all start circling, pushing the horses in a bunch. There might be 500 head, maybe 550, and maybe only 200 head.

EDWARD: What would be the smallest number of wild horses you would have circling, 200?

RAY: No, I think some days we was down to 125, 150.

EDWARD: Up to 550?

RAY: Up to 400 to 500.

EDWARD: That's a lot of ---

RAY: You can't believe how many horses --- Bill Brown owned 10,000 head of horses himself. And everybody else had horses.

EDWARD: How in the world --- you send out these two riders, right?

RAY: One or two.

EDWARD: One or two.

RAY: It depended on where the work was at. I went out alone many times, what they called the backstop.

EDWARD: How could you tell; I mean there is dust all over the place.

RAY: Yeah, but you see a string a dust coming out through there about 20 miles, you know that that's them horses. Pretty soon you'll see that dust come on ahead with these other horses. ... we'd go away and get away from it.

EDWARD: How can you tell whether those horses are already been branded?

RAY: Because they're already branded. You ... It was just young horses. We'd take all day, and sometimes it would take two days. Them horses in the corrals, work on them and brand them. Brand them and castrate them.

EDWARD: How long would it take you to brand, you got these wild horses in a corral, let's say at

Lost Creek. And how long would it take you guys to brand them and castrate 200 head?

RAY: We could get most of them in one day.

EDWARD: In one day?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: With this brand?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: You would brand them on both jaws, both sides, 200 of those guys?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Gee.

RAY: Two men a roping. One front foot, and one turned over and hit the ground. Whoever was working on the ground was on his head. ... went over backwards. The other guy got his rope on the hind feet, stretch him out.

EDWARD: Well, what happens when ---

RAY: The guy on the head still stayed with the head because you got to bring that head over to the horseshoe, ... both sides.

EDWARD: Did you, did you ---

RAY: And another guy is castrating him, during all that time. It just takes a few minutes with a horse.

EDWARD: And after you branded it you let them go, and he is still in the corral after you brand him?

RAY: Uh huh, just turn them loose.

EDWARD: You would have --- how many could you get in the Lost Creek Corral, let's say?

RAY: I'd say we'd have over 300 of them.

EDWARD: Over a 100?

RAY: Over 300.

EDWARD: 300.

RAY: Uh huh. Yeah, there was three camps. There was a big corral, and two smaller corrals.

EDWARD: At the ---

RAY: And we separated a lot of stock back, right off the bat that --- some of them was gentle, wasn't spooked, and didn't have to be worked. We cut ... and turned them out.

EDWARD: You guys must have worked your butt off.

RAY: We did.

EDWARD: In this heat.

RAY: We did.

EDWARD: How in the world did your horse --- how long would it take from --- when you send --- oh I forgot what you call these guys, Ray. These guys you send out ahead, what do you call those?

RAY: Just a backstop.

EDWARD: Backstop.

RAY: We didn't always use them, but most of the time we did.

EDWARD: Here comes your wild --- I'm drawing here, to the tape recorder. Here comes your wild horses, and here is your buckaroos, now did they have a name for these guys?

RAY: No.

EDWARD: Just buckaroos.

RAY: Yeah. Just --- but most of them, they'd be one maybe behind, one over there, and the other one would be way up here.

EDWARD: Is that far enough?

RAY: Yeah, that's all right. But your horses are still coming back ---

EDWARD: This guy wouldn't be here?

RAY: Not necessarily.

EDWARD: Would that guy be there?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: And that guy maybe?

RAY: Would be there, yeah.

EDWARD: And what you're trying to do --- now when these horses start to turn, these backstop guys, they come in and help?

RAY: Yeah, well your backstop would be over here, see. And these horses would go in, be pushed into this. And as soon as you mix the lead, then you can turn them. You start mixing bunches they're all confused, then you can round them up and do something with them. But you just go out there and get one bunch, and it would take three or four guys to bring them in because they run by their-selves.

EDWARD: How in the world, if you let's say --- this is important, let's say you had 200, and you got a stallion, right?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Two of them.

RAY: Yeah, some of them five, or six, or ten.

EDWARD: Five or six, yeah, right.

RAY: But each one of these bunches picks up, has got a stallion in them.

EDWARD: And a stallion will service about 20 mares.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Okay. So, we got 10 stallions, and we got 200 mares, broom tails, whatever you want to call them.

RAY: ... you'd have 20, or 25 stallions with that many horses. A gelding horse, gelding stallions, they're not --- they're old enough to breed, but the older horses is going to herd them back all the time. But when you got them all in, they're all coming into the corral.

EDWARD: If they're 10 miles out away from Lost Creek, Sinks of Lost Creek Corral, how in the god's name do you get them, and get in that corral? You just ---

RAY: We've got them all surrounded; we got them all surrounded.

EDWARD: And that rocky ---

RAY: ... to the lead. And ... good horses ... headed for the horse. They was generally mixed with that lead. But ... along the side, the rest of them would just all circle. That many buckaroos you've got, you've got lots of room on that desert. But you never crowd horses, give them lots of room.

EDWARD: Give them a lot of room?

RAY: Give them lots of room.

EDWARD: But that damn desert, Ray, is the rockiest ---

RAY: I know, but you never saw a rock, never saw a rock.

EDWARD: There is washouts, and ---

RAY: I know it, but you never saw them when you're running horses. You had to trust your horse.

EDWARD: God, you must have had a hell of a horse.

RAY: We did.

EDWARD: It would have ---

RAY: Once in awhile one would turn over with us. I've got a bad

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

RAY: Turned over ...

EDWARD: I mean I've been out there in a 4-wheel truck, and it knocked the brains out of you going out through there.

RAY: Yeah, that is worse than a good horse in the rocks. A good horse floats when he goes along over them rocks.

EDWARD: Oh man.

RAY: Any horse that couldn't run in the rocks was chicken feed, right away; he was no good to us.

EDWARD: How --- Bill had corrals at the Sinks of Lost Creek, right? Did he have a corral at Bradley Meadows?

RAY: No ... we used to camp there at Bradley.

EDWARD: Did he have a corral at South Creek Spring?

RAY: Yes, big corrals.

EDWARD: Big.

RAY: Yes.

EDWARD: Where in the heck ---

RAY: A holding pen right on below that, on that butte out through there.

EDWARD: Did Bill sell horses out of the South Creek Spring?

RAY: Not when we was --- we never sold horses. We'd break horses for him all the time. If we had a little time, we'd catch a good looking gelding, tie him up, and by that night we was riding him to camp.

EDWARD: Okay, what time of the morning did you get up, typical day working for Bill Brown out in the desert, sunlight?

RAY: Just up at daylight.

EDWARD: Eat your breakfast?

RAY: Uh huh. We was on the road right after sun up.

EDWARD: Go out --- you had somebody scout for these horses? No? How many of you buckaroos were together?

RAY: One day we ... and the next time we'd ride another area over here. We might all be together for 10 miles ... there.

EDWARD: After you rounded up as many horses as you could, then you'd move over to ---

RAY: To another place.

EDWARD: Ten, twenty miles away?

RAY: See from ... Creek we rode to Big Juniper, out to ... And all that country down towards Christmas Valley now. Then when we got that all rode, we moved to, back over --- we did a lot of times we'd ride from Dobkins place, the first couple fields right there.

EDWARD: From where?

RAY: From Dobkins.

EDWARD: Dobkins?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Burnt House?

RAY: No. Well, we stayed at his, where he was living, but we shod at the Burnt House, a big old two-story ...

EDWARD: Right. Yeah, I'm going to get into that here pretty soon. Let's start over again, Ray. Where did you, where did your buckaroos all meet, at the Buck Creek Ranch?

RAY: No, no the wagons ... and actually we'd be at, most of the time, leave at the Buck Creek Ranch.

EDWARD: And then you would go from Buck Creek Ranch to Gap Ranch?

RAY: One year we rode, two years we rode to Gap Ranch. We shod horses at the Gap Ranch one year. Rode their ... And the corrals was up this side of the Gap Ranch, overlooking the basin, pretty close to the rim rocks. ... come up over the hill.

EDWARD: Right. Which side of the road, the Gap Ranch side, or

RAY: The left side going toward the rim.

EDWARD: Oh, the south side.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: God, I think they're gone.

RAY: They are. I looked for them ...

EDWARD: So, did I.

RAY: No sign of them at all. South Creek Corrals are gone ... I imagine South Creek is too. I didn't get up there, but at Lost Creek they're gone, there is no sign of them corrals.

EDWARD: Damn. No, no, out --- you mean the Sinks of Lost Creek?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Oh, just the posts, I'll show you a picture. There are two posts, that's it.

RAY: Well, I thought that's what it was. I was out through there last winter, and down through there. I thought that's where the corrals were.

EDWARD: Two posts, that's all. Okay, all right. You left the Gap Ranch, and then where would you go, just to Lost Creek?

RAY: Mostly we went to South Creek.

EDWARD: South Creek.

RAY: Lost Creek was ... later.

EDWARD: Oh, oh.

RAY: ... One year we hit South Creek ... Lost Creek and camped down at the corrals. And we was there about five or six days, and then went to the old Ede place.

EDWARD: The what place?

RAY: The Ede place.

EDWARD: Ede.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: That's on the east side. The south side of --- west side of Wagontire Mountain. Carlon's have got it now. And we camped there, there was a pasture ... Went out there, and there was some corrals there too. But they're not there no more. We'd be about five days there, and maybe, depending on how many horses we was getting. See we picked them up, a third of them towards Sand Springs.

EDWARD: That's clear in Deschutes County.

RAY: That's the reason I'm telling you we got to have good horses, because we had --- We might run into horses way down there, pretty near to Sand Springs ... one time.

EDWARD: Frederick Butte?

RAY: Almost to, well we'll call it Tired Horse Butte. But it wasn't very far from the Lost Forest. Les jumped his horse, and it brought him around, and it was an old mare and a colt, and another

horse. And he brought it around, so I was riding ... horse. I went out and tried to turn them. But damn that old mare wasn't about to turn. I'd ride up, hit her over the head, she wouldn't turn. Pretty soon that little colt was a giving out, so I just took my rope down and caught the little bugger ... Les.

EDWARD: Les Morgan?

RAY: Yeah. I don't know what happened to him. He was riding a cranky horse. So, there I was with that colt, holding it, and I didn't know what to think. Finally, I turned it loose, the mare was gone ... colt kind of wandered around out there. I started back, and Les had lost his saddle blanket. He was riding this cranky horse, and had a hell of, getting on him. But anyway, roped the colt again and we branded it right there and turned it loose. I don't know whether the old mare ever come back to it or something.

EDWARD: Probably.

RAY: But she was a Horseshoe Bar mare, I knew that.

EDWARD: Did --- when you guys, you buckaroos castrated and branded these horses, and got all of them branded and so forth, before you left for another camp did you just let them go after

RAY: As soon as we got them worked ... finished working on them, ... they went out.

EDWARD: Just let them go.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: And if Bill comes up to the buckaroo boss and says I need 200 head of horses at Buck

RAY: Yeah, never saw Bill out there on the desert. He was ...

EDWARD: In the two to three years ---

RAY: He was with the sheep or around Buck Creek.

EDWARD: You never saw Bill Brown amongst those horses?

RAY: No.

EDWARD: In '25 to '27.

RAY: No. Only at Buck Creek, that's the only place we'd see Bill.

EDWARD: So, he must have told his buckaroo boss what he wanted, or something.

RAY: Well, he didn't have to.

EDWARD: Didn't have to.

RAY: All he wanted was his ...

EDWARD: Who told --- was Bill selling any horses in '25 to '27?

RAY: Not that I know of.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: No.

EDWARD: I didn't think so.

RAY: Huh uh.

EDWARD: See when he was selling his horses in World War I, and Spanish American War, he'd tell his buckaroo bosses I want 200 of them, and you put them in that damn corral --- well he never cussed, but I mean, you put them in that corral because I've got some horse buyers that are coming.

RAY: Yeah, yeah. I can believe that all right.

EDWARD: Well, why in the god's name was Bill Brown having you guys working your fanny off out there in the desert when he didn't need to sell any damn horses?

RAY: Well, he --- Bill had a funny attitude --- (Laughter) on his horses. I've been at home, somebody come there looking for a job --- Bill had real bright blue eyes. Come in and look for a job, Bill would talk to him a little bit, finally take --- I think you're nothing but a confound it horse thief. Well, I've heard them say that time and again. That was on Bill's mind, was he didn't want them horses stole.

EDWARD: Well, what in the world was he having --- there was no horse market.

RAY: He thought that there would be a market again. He never had a market there for years until the war come along. Then he sold over a million dollars worth of horses.

EDWARD: Yeah, Sumner brought back a check once from Crane for a \$100,000.00.

RAY: He did?

EDWARD: Yeah. See it doesn't make any sense. I don't know why Bill was --- maybe he just wanted to keep you guys, so you had a job.

RAY: Well ---

EDWARD: I don't know.

RAY: That helped, he paid us more than anybody else.

EDWARD: Yeah, didn't you guys get sixty bucks a month?

RAY: Ninety.

EDWARD: Ninety bucks a month?

RAY: I got ninety bucks a month --- I got ninety bucks a month every, all the time. And I'm sure that's what Sumner was getting before that.

EDWARD: That's a lot of money.

RAY: I know it.

EDWARD: No wonder old Bill --- You know ---

RAY: We had our own horses. In fact, our dad was out there, him and old Charlie Keith ... and he went back and lied to old Bill. So, Bill went and sent word for us to come to Buck Creek. Come in there, and Dad was telling all the --- everybody that had horses would come in and ride, and they had a ...

EDWARD: At Buck Creek?

RAY: Anyplace. But ... and the buckaroo boss kept track of these other guys. They had their own saddle horses, but they would still eat with the chuck wagon. And they had to pay Bill for the --- anyway Dad was giving him ... the different ones that was riding. And he give him Frank and I's names. Bill looked at him and he said, "Confound it, what are you doing?" Well, he says, "They're the ones been out there riding for their selves." He said, "Charlie, I hired them guys myself and sent them out there," he said, "They're getting more money than you are." And poor Dad he just wilted into the floor. He was probably getting \$50.00 a month, thought he was getting --- "Yeah," he said,

"they're getting more money than you are."

EDWARD: Charlie Houston. Oh boy. What did you most like about buckarooing out there in that high desert country?

RAY: That's all I know. I was raised on a horse; I didn't know any better.

EDWARD: You were raised up there around Bear Creek?

RAY: On Salt Creek.

EDWARD: Didn't know nothing else, just ride that damn horse.

RAY: That's all. That's all I wanted to do.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: I was breaking horses when I was in the third grade, riding them to school.

EDWARD: Oh, by the way, before I forget, what relation is Martha Houston?

RAY: A cousin.

EDWARD: Cousin.

RAY: Iris and Lila, Lila Keith was their sister.

EDWARD: Right, right.

VIRGIE HOUSTON: Would you like a cup of coffee?

EDWARD: No thanks. I drink too much of that, I turn into a wee wee all day.

VIRGIE: Well, what do you sell your book for?

EDWARD: That sells for \$20.00, but I don't have any more. But Vans got one.

VIRGIE: But he won't give it to us.

EDWARD: Well, that turkey.

VIRGIE: Well, are you going to have some more printed?

EDWARD: I don't have the money.

VIRGIE: Oh.

EDWARD: There is a lot of stuff; there is a little bit of stuff on the Houston's.

VIRGIE: Yeah, there is a little about your dad.

EDWARD: Okay. What did you dislike about riding the desert?

RAY: What did I what?

EDWARD: What did you dislike the most about riding for Bill Brown, anything? How did you take ---

RAY: Disliked it very much when a horse turned over with me. Broke my ribs.

EDWARD: Yeah. Golly, I could see that happening so easy. Did --- how did you guys take care of your baths and stuff, or did it make any difference?

RAY: Oh, we took ... wherever we found a family that had a, where we could buy a clean shirt and so forth. Just like Mrs. Parrish, that was one place we cleaned up out there. At Lost Creek we'd go up and ... On South Creek, we'd go down to the horse trough. A little chilly, but it worked.

EDWARD: It worked. I was in the irrigation ditch over here last night, taking a bath.

VIRGIE: The irrigation ditch?

EDWARD: Yeah.

VIRGIE: You should have gone up the river ...

RAY: Swimming hole right up the river here about a mile.

EDWARD: I thought so, as many people was running around up there.

VIRGIE: ...

EDWARD: South Creek Spring, was there ever a cabin at South Creek Spring?

RAY: No.

EDWARD: Who built the corrals?

RAY: Bill Brown.

EDWARD: Were the corrals down in the canyon from South Creek Spring?

RAY: Just below, about a quarter of a mile.

EDWARD: About a quarter of a mile. Because I'm going to be there.

RAY: ...

EDWARD: Saturday, Sunday.

RAY: I'd guess a quarter of a mile from --- we camped right at the spring. It was about a quarter of a mile down to the corrals.

EDWARD: Do you know if Bill ever sold horses out of South Creek Corrals?

RAY: I don't --- that was before my time.

EDWARD: How many horses could you corral there at South Creek? A 100, 500?

RAY: I --- gosh darn it, I don't know, I don't know. They're big corrals, they are big corrals.

EDWARD: They were in a canyon, weren't they?

RAY: Right in the bottom of the canyon.

EDWARD: That canyon goes quite a ways down there.

RAY: Uh huh. Well, the pasture was right on down there, below the corrals, that took in that whole part of the canyon, that whole hill up there.

EDWARD: Oh, up there in the flat?

RAY: No.

EDWARD: No.

RAY: There is a hill up on the right hand side.

EDWARD: Oh, okay. There is a road that goes right through it now.

RAY: Is the pasture still there, any fence still there?

EDWARD: Not much. Sagebrush all over the place. Right above the hill from the spring, down, down a ways.

RAY: Uh huh ... corrals. South ---

EDWARD: I don't think there ...

RAY: Southwest.

EDWARD: Southwest.

RAY: ... just right at the creek. And I think it went down the creek. It was a big pasture up there.

EDWARD: I don't --- was that fenced too, Ray?

RAY: Yes, that was fenced. That's where we put the cavvy in.

EDWARD: I want to take a look. I'll try to find that ---

RAY: Everyplace we went we had to have a place to hold our saddle horses.

EDWARD: Okay, what --- the Sinks of Lost Creek. Now you remember we were talking about those two poles that were still standing, that's about it. That's where the corrals --- now what, he had one big corral and two smaller ones, is that what you said?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Was there ever a cabin there? No?

RAY: Not that I know of.

EDWARD: Okay, you're at the Sinks of Lost Creek. I call it Sinks of Lost Creek in deference to --

-

RAY: ...

EDWARD: Yeah. If you look to the east there is a rim rock up there. Do you recall that?

RAY: I don't know whether we had a name for it or not, I don't think so.

EDWARD: Sheep Mountain is right over there.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Towards that direction there is a rim rock. Well Bill, George, and Robert went there in 1882 and stayed underneath of a tarp, tied to juniper trees up against the side of that rim rock. Did anybody ever mention to you about that? That was 1882. Was the Sinks of Lost Creek, was that all fenced off then in '25 and '26?

RAY: The pasture was on the west side of the corrals, and it was fenced. There was a big pasture up there.

EDWARD: Do you recall that dike being there? No?

RAY: ... I don't remember that.

EDWARD: Big dike built up.

RAY: Oh no, no, that dike wasn't in there.

EDWARD: That wasn't Bill Brown's then?

RAY: I don't think so. There was a water hole, an old water hole ... the dig out there, and it had water in it the first time I was around there.

EDWARD: It's so dry out there now. There is nothing out there.

VIRGIE: It's terrible.

EDWARD: It's ridiculous.

VIRGIE: Went across that country last fall, make you sick.

EDWARD: Those cows are just beating a holy ---

VIRGIE: Yeah.

EDWARD: That well there at Sinks of Lost Creek is not even --- you know where the big ---

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: --- whatever that thing is called.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: They haven't run that for years.

RAY: I know it. And the cattle was going, when we was out there last ---

EDWARD: That's that ... GI Ranch.

RAY: When was we out there?

VIRGIE: Last fall, wasn't it?

EDWARD: The White Horse Ranch leases that from the GI.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: The ... GI Ranch, I won't get into that.

RAY: Yeah, that's a mess. We ... after that Virgie and I went over there. When we come down by the old corrals, these cattle was, I figured was watering there. That's where the hole was, the hole was dug out ... that country, because I remember. I remember now what you're talking about.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: Them damn cattle was going clear around that old ...

EDWARD: That old Dewitt place.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: That's the nearest water. Can you believe that?

RAY: Well, why don't they use that well?

EDWARD: I don't know. It's the GI Ranch, they don't give a ---

RAY: Well, anyway we was glad to get to Buck Creek. We finally got up and got a picture of the house, but we had a --- She about had heart trouble before we made it.

VIRGIE: I never saw such country. I knew it was always bad when my grandparents lived up in that area, but I didn't realize it ...

EDWARD: Don't try Wagontire Mountain.

RAY: You can't get no place up there. We tried it.

EDWARD: I did in that pickup out there. It's a wonder I didn't tear the thing all to pieces. That's not roads. You know where Harry Arnold's place was, up through there?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Oh my god, they got washouts. You need a big, big old four-wheeler, you know.

RAY: ... I know a guy from Burns that used ... they come in from the Glass Butte side.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: And come up there, him and his wife was living out there. I don't know ---

EDWARD: That was Arnold, I bet you.

RAY: No.

EDWARD: Wasn't it?

RAY: No, he's got the Arnold place.

EDWARD: Oh.

RAY: He's from Burns. He told me that spring went drier than a bone there at the Arnold place. God that used to run a pipe that big.

EDWARD: Pete Williams? Peila?

RAY: No, I'll tell you --- it wasn't Peila, I know.

EDWARD: There was --- when was this?

RAY: Last winter.

EDWARD: There was somebody --- where were they living?

VIRGIE: An old couple, weren't they?

RAY: ... when I went out there?

VIRGIE: Last fall, sometime last fall.

RAY: It had to have been fall, because the cattle were still out there, and them people was still there. They hadn't went back to Burns yet.

EDWARD: Where were they staying, Ray, at Harry Arnold's old place?

RAY: I think it was Harry Arnold's old place. I think he told me that that was Harry's place. Harry always lived off over on the west side.

EDWARD: Huh uh.

RAY: He had a spring right over there on the ---

EDWARD: Yeah, his cabin is on the east side.

RAY: East side I meant.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: East side.

EDWARD: In that corral down there in the flat.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: That was Bill Brown's corral.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: We'll get to that in a second.

RAY: Old T-Bo used to come over when we was riding there. He'd come down.

EDWARD: See I was up there for two weeks, and I was up there in September in Wagontire. I didn't see a blasted soul out there.

VIRGIE: Well, that would have been later. Most of us have ...

EDWARD: I wonder if they were deer hunters? Peila would have shot them. (Laughter) That's strange.

VIRGIE: It was after hunting season we were ---

RAY: No, they had cattle out there. He had the Arnold place. That other place that they was living on was the Arnold place. And that well went dry; they had to drill another well.

EDWARD: Geeze, that thing was going like crazy when I was there. That's strange.

RAY: Now that's on Glass Butte, on that ... comes up, comes up Glass Buttes, and cuts over toward Wagontire.

EDWARD: Okay, anyway. Okay, Lost Creek, Bradley Meadows, what do you recall in '25, '27 of Bradley Meadows? Was there a cabin there?

RAY: Yeah, Ira Bradley lived there.

EDWARD: He lived there?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did you ever see the Bradley kids there?

RAY: Yes. Yes, there was two girls out there one summer.

EDWARD: And what in the hell --- oops, just a ...

VIRGIE: Well, the Bradley girls were, one married to Carlon, and one married to Graves.

EDWARD: Yeah, I interviewed ---

RAY: They were the older ones. It was the younger ones that was out there. ... we rode from over there by T-Bo's, over. He said, "Let's go for a ride."

EDWARD: Over the hill?

RAY: Yeah. I said, "What day do they want to go?" "Oh," he said, "let's go over to Lost Creek."

Hell, it was 15 miles. He wanted to go see one of them girls. (Laughter)

EDWARD: I interviewed Grace Bradley Gowdy, and she gave me the whole family history.

VIRGIE: Oh, I bet she did, yeah.

EDWARD: A bunch of pictures in there now.

RAY: Two Bradley girls, I think two girls married Gowdys ...

EDWARD: What was Ira Bradley doing there? What was --- how did he --- what was his lifestyle? He run cattle, horses, just went up there by ---

RAY: He had a few horses. Ira was an old buckaroo boss for the ZX for a long time. And then his wife lost her mind and ---

EDWARD: Yeah, I know.

RAY: And ---

EDWARD: Edith [Ada].

RAY: Ira was kind of a lost man from then on. ...

EDWARD: And he would go up there and stay even during the winter all by himself.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: But he was there when you guys camped there?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And his cabin was kind of back in the little canyon back in there?

RAY: It was right up across ... actually kind of a little fork in the ...

EDWARD: Yeah, right.

RAY: And the cabin sat right back in --- the right hand side of the ---

EDWARD: Yeah, it's gone now.

RAY: Is it?

EDWARD: Yeah. Ira Bradley, was he a pretty nice guy?

RAY: Oh yes, finest in the world.

EDWARD: Super nice guy?

RAY: Yeah. I ... up to Rattlesnake Creek ...

EDWARD: Oh, don't say rattlesnakes. Hundreds of them over there.

RAY: I was going along, coming down off the mountain, I was backstopping. Come down off the mountain following these horses, we was a coming ... pretty soon I heard a rattlesnake, and I looked

down and there he was, a flopping down there. These other horses scared him up; he was laying on a rock when I come by. Just grabbed that little horse right in the muscle. He rode with me for about four or five jumps and tore loose. I run him the rest of the day. Two days later we moved; he was limping awful bad. We was there about two weeks at Ira's. I took him up one day, the horse was up ... I said, "Will that horse live Ira, or shall I kill him?" And he couldn't see his hoof ---

EDWARD: So swollen.

RAY: His foot was just; his whole leg was swollen clear to the ground. You couldn't see his hoof. "Oh yeah, he'll live." Well, I said, "If he does, you got a horse. Nice gentle horse, and you can ride him." The next year he come riding over the mountain with that little old bay horse. Says, "I told you he would live."

EDWARD: Oh, I got to back up one quickie here. Now you said, Ray that this was probably --- or maybe, help me out here. Was this the last year that Bill Brown had buckaroos?

RAY: That's as far as I know.

EDWARD: Far as you know, '27.

RAY: He might have had Fred.

EDWARD: Fred did a...

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EDWARD: I want to finish up just a few things if we can. Now Bill Brown didn't have any corrals at Bradley Meadows?

RAY: No.

EDWARD: No, okay.

RAY: No, but he had a pasture.

EDWARD: Pasture, right.

RAY: Down below there.

EDWARD: Did you know that Ira Bradley, or Harold Bradley, or Hosmer Bradley never owned

that property?

RAY: They didn't? How did Carlon's get it?

EDWARD: You know how --- take a guess who owned it when Bradley was there?

RAY: Huh?

EDWARD: Take a guess who owned it.

RAY: I don't know.

EDWARD: Bill Brown.

RAY: I suspected that.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: I suspected that.

EDWARD: I'll tell you who owned it first, Henry Egli. Henry Egli got patent to it in 1892, I think.

And Brown got it from Egli. And Bradley's never owned a piece of that ground. So, Bill must have just let them go ahead and stay there.

RAY: Yeah.

VIRGIE: Did you ever research that old Link Hutton?

EDWARD: Oh yeah. We haven't even come close to him yet. All right, that's so much for, I think --- nope, nope, nope. All right, let's finish up this corral stuff. Now on the east side of the mountain you go from Bradley Meadows over that little gap, there is a grassy meadow.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: You know whose that was?

RAY: I don't, I don't ... at one time when we was moving cavvy up through there.

EDWARD: That was Robert Brown's homestead.

RAY: Oh, it was?

EDWARD: He had 160 acres right in, a quarter of a mile by a mile long, right through there, where that meadow is.

RAY: ...

EDWARD: 1892. And he sold that to Bill in 1896.

RAY: Well, they came out there, brothers.

EDWARD: Yeah, three of them. Okay, then you go through that meadow, and you come through Bunyard's place, Jesse Bunyard --- Jim Bunyard. And then you go by Harry Arnold's, and then there is Brown's Corrals there.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did anybody ever tell you that Bill Brown built those corrals on the east side of Wagonire there? That is Bill's original homestead.

RAY: It was?

EDWARD: Yeah, right below Harry Arnolds, in that flat.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: He got that in 1886.

RAY: I knew that they homesteaded out there at Wagonire country.

EDWARD: Yeah, this is real important, Ray. Do you remember if there was a cabin by those corrals then?

RAY: I don't remember a cabin, but I sure wouldn't say there wasn't one there.

EDWARD: Damn.

VIRGIE: Can't get...

EDWARD: Well, the reason I'm asking, because it was from that property where that corral is, that Bill Brown left on April 9th, 1886, to go face this John Overstreet and say get the quote off my property, or I'm going to shoot you. And he went back to the cabin, George Brown, his brother, just came in from The Dalles with a wagon. Got the gun underneath the seat, went back over the hill --- do you know where Frank Dobkins was killed?

RAY: It was out east, wasn't it?

EDWARD: Huh uh.

RAY: It wasn't?

EDWARD: You remember; you know where Harry Arnold's cabin is?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: You go directly south about a quarter of a mile, and it's the Couch field, old Charlie Couch.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: There is a gate; I was there. Bill Brown got the 45-60-caliber rifle, went back to the same --- well a hundred yards from where Frank Dobkins was killed, and shot Overstreet. The rocks are piled up; American Sutherland piled them up.

RAY: Huh.

EDWARD: Eighteen paces. And it goes on and on. So, I was wondering if there was a cabin when you were buckarooing, you know. Because that would have been ---

RAY: I just doubt it.

EDWARD: Yeah. That would have been Bill's cabin. Because there is no sign of nothing there now, except the corrals. The corrals are still fine.

RAY: Well, there hasn't been people using them out there.

EDWARD: Not too often. That's Pete Williams' place now. All right, Harry Arnold's place, that was there, we know that. Was the Egli place --- oh excuse me, back up. Was Harry Arnold there when you went through that when you were working for Bill Brown?

RAY: Uh huh. He used to come down and watch us. He used to come down to the corrals every once in awhile. In fact, he'd get in there and rope. He packed a 60-foot rope, rawhide rope. He was a good roper.

EDWARD: Yeah, he made those.

RAY: Yeah, I know he did.

EDWARD: Was Lovetta with him then, Two-Gun Sue?

RAY: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: She was?

RAY: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: They were married in 1926.

RAY: Yeah, she was out there with him.

EDWARD: Did she pack guns then?

RAY: Six-shooters. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Pearl handled --- pearl handled gun, I guess.

RAY: I never saw her with any guns on.

EDWARD: Yeah, okay. Neva said, well most people didn't. She never packed around a gun.

VIRGIE: Was that Neva Warner?

EDWARD: Yeah. Okay. Then, okay, you go south from the Brown's Corral on the east side of the mountain. I call it the east side Wagontire corrals.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Compared to the west side, I guess. And then you pass the old Egli place, and a grove of apple trees down there.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Now Sutherlands, who was living there then?

RAY: Frank Dobkins.

EDWARD: Oh.

RAY: Frank Dobkins was a living there. We rode out of there. We was there for ---

EDWARD: Okay, now wait a minute, Ray. This has got to be right.

RAY: Is that the same place Carlon's had?

EDWARD: Oh, okay, see I thought --- no. Egli place is down there --- the first place past Arnolds, going south. And then it's Jackson's place, Tom Jackson.

RAY: Oh.

EDWARD: And then it's Dobkins place, and then it's Link Hutton's place. Then up on the hill is the old Hutton place.

RAY: That old white house belonged to Hutton at one time?

EDWARD: That was his father's, yeah.

RAY: Oh, his father.

EDWARD: Okay, this is one we got to get straightened out. Okay, here we go folks. We'll come back to --- this will really help you I think, Ray, if I can look at this backwards. This is all Bill Brown stuff. Now, does this look familiar? ... That's Link Hutton's house on the main road. Okay.

RAY: The blacksmith shop set right down here.

EDWARD: All right, now --- I'm going to back up a little bit here. Oh, all these guys --- these are all Bradley kids. Whoops, whoops ---

RAY: Have you got one of Hom?

EDWARD: When he was a little kid. That's Lost Creek, Bradley Meadows, about 1930. See that cabin way back there? That's Mrs. Addington, and Mrs. Coty, that schoolteacher. Addington's had the post office there at Wagontire, 1919 to 1931 I think it was. Oh, there is Link Hutton. We'll pass, we'll pass, go by him.

VIRGIE: Yeah.

EDWARD: We'll come back ---

VIRGIE: ...

EDWARD: Yeah when he was younger. This is when he married Hattie May.

VIRGIE: Oh.

EDWARD: Buckaroos, we'll come back.

VIRGIE: Everybody was scared to death of him.

EDWARD: Yeah. There is Bill's old house on Buck Creek.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Look at the size of that thing.

RAY: You know, you know they got that all painted now?

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: Brand-new paint.

EDWARD: Yeah, right here. I took that last summer. Only half of it is there. Okay, okay, there is Bill Brown's store.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: You remember that?

RAY: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: Link Hutton's house now. That's what's left of it. This is the house he died in, in Burns. Here's the old house on the hill without --- You remember, you were talking big old two-story house?

RAY: Uh huh, uh huh.

EDWARD: That was Link, and America, and Tom Hutton's father's and mother's place.

RAY: Huh.

EDWARD: Now ---

RAY: How did Harold and Ira Bradley get it, or ---

EDWARD: Dobkins?

RAY: --- Dobkins get it?

EDWARD: I'll explain it to you. It took me awhile, but I finally figured it out. Okay, I'm still searching here. All right. There is Harry Arnold's cabin. We don't recall that Jackson place in 1925, '26, '27, that big funny looking house?

VIRGIE: ...

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: Well, it seemed to me that there was a lot of conversation about Jackson. I think he was a living there when we was out there. But I don't remember him ever being around us.

EDWARD: He was kind of a funny character too. And then you went to the Dobkins place, now what did you do there, Ray?

RAY: We camped there.

EDWARD: You camped there. Were the corrals there then?

RAY: Yes.

EDWARD: And the little cabin in amongst the apple trees?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I don't have a picture of that. But Elaine Murphy might have one, because her parents slept there, or sister slept there too. That's the cabin that --- this is the Dobkins place, is generally where he stayed.

RAY: Uh huh. Yeah, when we camped there one year that was our first camp. And we rode all that country out east, and into Dry Valley.

EDWARD: All that Dry Valley?

RAY: Yeah, that Dry Valley.

EDWARD: Good gosh.

RAY: Of course ... ridge, we rode all that country, from down there.

EDWARD: Dry Valley has got to be the worst hellhole on earth. (Laughter) I went out there to, you know, Sammy Boyce's place?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh, by the way, was he living there then?

RAY: No, but he moved out there later on.

EDWARD: There was some ---

RAY: Sammy was around Bend for several years before he went out there.

EDWARD: Was Ole Sodenberg out there then?

RAY: There was somebody out there.

EDWARD: That was Sodenberg. Do you know what, he was a witness on the coroner's verdict on Harold Bradley? He disappeared in 1930.

RAY: Oh, he did? Well, I know ---

VIRGIE: They didn't want to hear him anymore.

EDWARD: I think he's out there in some badger hole somewhere.

VIRGIE: Well, could be.

EDWARD: God, there is some strange stuff out here.

RAY: Well, I don't know ... why he ever killed the Bradley kid.

EDWARD: Yeah, well I'll tell you here in a bit. But you chased horses out there at Dry Valley for Bill Brown?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Okay, good. Because I told somebody that, and they said no. And I said, "I don't know, I'll find out."

RAY: Yeah, we sure did.

EDWARD: Have you ever been out there Virgie?

VIRGIE: ... not where Sammy Boyce lived.

EDWARD: Dry Valley.

VIRGIE: No. It's worse than those other places.

RAY: That's Dry Valley.

VIRGIE: That's what it is, huh?

EDWARD: I got a picture; I'll show you. It's pathetic. I don't know what --- Hannah Myers used to live out there.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: She's still alive.

RAY: Is she?

VIRGIE: Is Sammy still alive?

RAY: Yeah, Sammy died, didn't he?

EDWARD: Who?

RAY: Sammy.

EDWARD: Yes.

VIRGIE: Sammy Boyce.

EDWARD: Two years ago.

VIRGIE: Oh, did he?

RAY: I thought so.

EDWARD: 1990.

RAY: He hasn't been out to the old --- the last time I saw him was out to the old ... picnic.

EDWARD: God, I wished I could have talked to him. But I have an interview with Sam Boyce; it's a hundred and some pages. Okay, now what did you do at the Dobkins place when you was working for Bill Brown, just camp there?

RAY: Just camped there. And we went up to the big old, the big old house there, to shoe our horses.

EDWARD: You went --- okay. That was the White House Ranch?

RAY: Uh huh, big old white house.

EDWARD: That burnt down.

RAY: In fact, after we left there, we had the wagon, and Alice Smith cooked in that for us in that house right there.

EDWARD: Was this 1925, and '26, and '27?

RAY: Somewhere along in that time, yeah.

EDWARD: Were you there only one time, or many?

RAY: Just the one time.

EDWARD: Oh, one time.

RAY: Just the one time. We moved from there and went over to South Creek.

EDWARD: Yeah, went right over the hill.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: South Creek is right over here.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: About two miles. Was that house empty then?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Have you ever heard of Clarence Woodard? What did Clarence Woodard do?

RAY: I don't know, I just heard of him.

VIRGIE: ... Woodard.

EDWARD: W O O D A R D.

VIRGIE: I've heard of that name.

EDWARD: Okay, I'll get you straightened out here Ray, on this house thing, that big old house.

Frank, okay, Frank Dobkins bought this Dobkins place from Egli, or excuse me, Comegys. You know where you camped at the Dobkins place?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: In 1919. Took in about 300 and some acres. Him and Jackson were kind of buddies, although Dobkins tried to get Jackson to court for stealing one of his horses. But, you know, it is crazy out here. So, he came there in 1919, Dobkins. Whoops, this place. In 1925, now you interrupt any time you want to Ray, you were around in 1925. Link Hutton thought that his wife, Leona Neasham Miller Hutton Woodard was messing around with Harold Bradley.

RAY: Yeah, I know, we knew that, but ---

EDWARD: Harold was a 23-year-old, running the mail, nice kid.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: As far as I'm concerned, he had nothing to do with Leona Hutton whatsoever.

RAY: No, I know it.

EDWARD: He was down at the Addington's place the night of the 28th of December 1925. Vera Addington said that he was drunk, and he was supposed to take the mail from Wagontire Post Office, clear over the mountain, over to Stauffer. Well, it was snow, a little snow, and it was cold. So, he, Luther Addington asked him to stay the night. He said no, he didn't want to. So, he went over about three miles and stayed at the Hutton's place, Link Hutton's. And Harold had worked for

Link Hutton, you know, off and on. You know, you work for anybody, anybody you can. They went up to Jackson's that night; made up an agreement, Link was going to divorce --- I mean Leona Hutton was going to divorce Link and get all the property. And Link was going to leave the next morning for Peru. This is what the --- Link, Leona Hutton and R. B. Jackson said, the night before Harold was murdered. So anyway, about 6:30 in the morning Link --- Harold was out trying to get --- it was in the shop, getting some tools, and Link came out and just shot him. Give him a gut shot.

RAY: That is going to do it.

EDWARD: And then Harold says, "Please don't shoot him" --- or I didn't show any of this to Grace. Anyway, he shot him in the head, again, second shot, killed him. He died a half hour later. But anyway, in the Link Hutton house.

RAY: Oh.

EDWARD: And then Link took off, was looking for Leona, he would have shot her, killed her too. And I don't know whether Harold, Ray Jackson said that Harold didn't say much, because part of his jaw was shot off. And then Clarence Woodard, Clarence Woodard is the guy that was messing around with Leona Hutton.

RAY: I knew it was somebody else, but I didn't know ---

EDWARD: And anyway, they ended up getting married in 1927, Leona Hutton and Clarence Woodard. She died in 1958; he died in 1964. You asked how Dobkins got this place. Well, Clarence Woodard and Slivers Emery were partners. They bought this old Sam Hutton place, 1,120 acres, I think, from the Hutton's, Link Hutton and America in 1925. And then after Harold was killed, Clarence took off, you know, went to Lakeview. And he gave up all his rights to it, and then Everett Slivers Emery sold it to Frank Dobkins in 1926. That's how Dobkins ended up with that, and that's something he probably should have never done. See Hutton's wouldn't have sold it to Dobkins.

RAY: Oh, hell no.

EDWARD: No.

RAY: Oh, I should say not.

EDWARD: But Everett Emery sold it to Dobkins.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: And then all hell broke loose from then on. (Laughter)

VIRGIE: There was a lot of feuding and fighting at that time.

EDWARD: Oh yeah. I mean up here --- here is the peak of Wagontire, over here Link Hutton set a fire to try to burn Dobkins out.

RAY: We was out there, we was at, camped at Dobkins when that fire come off the mountain.

EDWARD: You were?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Where were you camping, Ray?

RAY: We was at Dobkins when that fire come off the mountain.

EDWARD: I've got the trial transcripts to that.

RAY: You have? I didn't know there was any trials ---

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

RAY: I know we had a hell of a time saving his house. That fire come right down there. We got --
- he had a team; Frank had a team there. We got that team out there, some kind of an old drag,
dragging ... that grass earlier.

EDWARD: Wow, now you didn't tell me that, Ray. You were camped

--- oh ouch ---

RAY: That was the same time we was riding right there. We might have been camped there, and
shoeing horses up here at that time. But I believe maybe we was.

EDWARD: You remember that fire?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: That was set up at Rattlesnake Canyon. See Jackson's place was down here, up that
canyon. Now I'm not sure if he set it, but it wouldn't surprise me, it wouldn't surprise me.

RAY: No, he was an ornery son-of-a-bitch.

EDWARD: And you helped fight this fire?

RAY: Yeah, sure did, the whole bunch of us was right there when that ---

EDWARD: I can't remember whether that was '25, or '26. I can find out in a minute. And that almost --- did it burn some of Dobkins fence poles, fences?

RAY: Yeah, yeah it burnt some fence.

EDWARD: See the Hutton's said it ---

RAY: But we had a hell of a time a saving the house, I know that.

EDWARD: It came that close?

RAY: ... down there.

EDWARD: It actually came that close to that old house and the apple trees?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I'll be damned. You know who owned all of this property up to that fire? Jackson did, Dobkins was leasing it.

RAY: Oh, he was?

EDWARD: Yeah. It's just that big hill up there, ain't it?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Darn thing on it but sagebrush and juniper trees. Yeah, he had 640 acres in here. And that fire come down through here. Did you see America Sutherland then, during that fire?

RAY: I don't know.

EDWARD: Who was with you, do you recall Ray?

RAY: Frank ---

EDWARD: Frank Dobkins.

RAY: ... Sedrick, George Smith. God, most of that ... crew right there.

EDWARD: God dang, that's unbelievable. Well, Dobkins ended up suing Hutton over that, and he got \$10,000.

RAY: The hell he did.

EDWARD: In 1930, 1929, from Hutton over that. Because he said that Hutton set it deliberately.

Of course, Hutton said that ---

RAY: Well, he could have, because I don't remember any lightening that was going on.

EDWARD: Geeze. How long did you fight this fire?

RAY: It took us all afternoon, working away at it until it died down. We got that damn grass; it was the grass that was ... hell with it. Those sagebrush, it wasn't any chore, but it was that goddamn grass that was in there.

EDWARD: Did it ever get close to Jackson's house?

RAY: Not too close, not too close. It just seemed to come right down off the hill, right straight at that place.

EDWARD: Amazing, isn't it? I wonder what Link Hutton was doing up there. Was there a big heavy wind that day?

RAY: I don't remember. There was wind, because it kept --- then that damn stuff would fall over. We'd get a good trail, and this stuff burn off, fall over, and be on the other side.

EDWARD: That's unbelievable.

RAY: I remember that we had ---

EDWARD: I've got to get some things figured out here, Ray Houston and myself on --- who in the god's name was Harry Thompson?

VIRGIE: It was his dad, wasn't it?

RAY: It was his dad.

EDWARD: Oney.

RAY: Oney's dad.

EDWARD: Father.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Do you know what in the heck happened to Harry Thompson?

VIRGIE: He died when he was living here.

RAY: He was living here with Emery, in one of these old cabins.

VIRGIE: And I don't know what year that his dad died.

EDWARD: Do you have any idea?

RAY: It was --- damn shortly after we come here.

EDWARD: Okay, when did you come here, Virgie?

VIRGIE: '38.

EDWARD: '38.

VIRGIE: Oh, it had to be later than that.

RAY: Well, it wasn't very long. We wasn't here very long.

EDWARD: Two years, five years?

RAY: I'd ---

EDWARD: I can look it up in the paper if I get a rough date.

VIRGIE: I think at least three or four years.

EDWARD: Was it during World War II? In the '40's probably.

RAY: I think so, it was ---

VIRGIE: In the '40's, I know it had to be in the '40's. Because Wesley was born ---

RAY: It was only two or three years after we come here that the old man died, I know.

VIRGIE: Well, it seemed to me longer than that. But anyway Oney, I know, used to take Wesley with him when he was just a little kid.

EDWARD: In 1918, Harry H. Thompson sold 640 acres to Bill Brown.

VIRGIE: Oney's folks lived in Texas. His sister ---

RAY: Huh?

VIRGIE: Oney's sister, I think lived, didn't she live in Texas?

RAY: I don't know where in hell she lives.

VIRGIE: Anyway, they come here when Oney died, and went to his funeral.

RAY: And so, did his mother.

VIRGIE: And the only --- the only thing she was interest in was his money. Oney used to hide his money out here on the desert. He'd dig holes and put his ... did.

RAY: Everything was silver dollars.

VIRGIE: Silver dollars, he had them buried every place.

EDWARD: Oney Thompson buried his money all over the desert?

RAY: Yes.

VIRGIE: He was strange.

RAY: One time he went on a trip with us. Well, he said, "Okay, I'll go out and get my cash." We went out and he had it in a bag that time. I don't know whether he took it out of a jug, but he put them in glass jugs.

VIRGIE: Half-gallon jugs.

RAY: Anyway, was up the street, he come by the garage, and Virgie was going from the little, down back that way. And he said, "Watch this." He had this in his hand, looking awful glad, and he said, "Hold this Virgie," as he went by. She reached out and took that, womp!

VIRGIE: Plumb full of silver dollars.

RAY: Tickled him to death, he knew she'd drop it.

EDWARD: Okay, Harry H. Thompson probably died in the early 1940's.

VIRGIE: I think so.

RAY: I think so.

EDWARD: Where was Harry Thompson's place from Bradley Meadows? Where was his cabin?

RAY: It was about, I'd say, five or six miles. I'm sure that we come by it last winter when we come through there. There is a reservoir that is dug out there now, and some water holes. And they put a cabin there and some fences. I'm sure that that was where Thompson lived. They had a cabin.

EDWARD: On the east side of Wagontire Mountain?

RAY: No, no, it was up on the mountain itself, in the gap, before it went over the gap.

EDWARD: Just before Harry Arnold's cabin?

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Where that meadow ---

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: --- I was telling you that Robert Brown had.

RAY: Yeah. Well, that was --- I'm sure it was right --- it was it when I come by it last year.

EDWARD: By the way, what the god's name were you driving to get through there?

RAY: Oh, the other day?

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: Four-wheel drive.

EDWARD: Oh, no wonder. Yeah.

RAY: We just went right through there.

EDWARD: My stupid pickup ---

RAY: We started over that rim rock, going up to Lost Creek, but we didn't go over that way, come back around.

EDWARD: Oh.

RAY: But we got down to Lost Creek and there is a road going up Lost Creek now, right up the creek.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: But it was getting too late, so we didn't go up there.

EDWARD: Okay, his cabin was on the top of the hill above Bradley Meadows, right?

RAY: Uh huh, up on the hill.

EDWARD: I'm sure I know where it is; it's on the ground now.

RAY: Well, I imagine it is.

EDWARD: It is called the White place.

RAY: Is it?

EDWARD: Why, I don't know. How long --- were you ever in that Harry Thompson's cabin?

RAY: I had to wait in there while he went out and got ---

EDWARD: Moonshine.

RAY: --- got the whiskey.

EDWARD: Where was his whiskey ---

RAY: The still?

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: Well, it might be anyplace. But one time we was riding at Lost Creek, the horses broke away. And I was riding a young colt, and I tried to favor him, a young horse we tried to favor them. But they started breaking, heading back across, towards the gap. So, I come down off the mountain and ... sagebrush there. You know what that was?

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: That little old horse was just lunging like that, going over that sagebrush. And pretty soon I looked down and here was a great big wide place, and my horse stuck his feet in the ground and stood there, and --- I knew what was there too. There was a still going, smoke was going, so I had to get them up to ... and went on, head the horses off.

EDWARD: Was that above on the gap there?

RAY: That was right down on the creek itself.

EDWARD: Oh.

RAY: Below, clear on down towards the corral. Between the corrals and ...

EDWARD: Oh, oh, okay, about, there is about four miles in between.

RAY: Uh huh, there is old high sagebrush down in there, just out-side of Bill's pasture a ways. I was telling Oney about it later. "Yeah," he said, "you didn't look, you didn't know you was looking down a 30-30 when you come into that place."

VIRGIE: He give me that old 30-30.

RAY: I said, "No, but I wasn't about to look anyplace around there for it."

EDWARD: Well, I tell you, I have nothing against those guys; because that prohibition helped a lot of these homesteaders, and stuff, believe me.

VIRGIE: It kept them from starving to death.

EDWARD: Yeah. Okay, so he may have --- he had to water though, so he may have put his stills kind of around water.

RAY: Well, they might have. They made most of it in the wintertime when there was snow.

EDWARD: Oh, I see, oh. Now Harry Thompson's cabin, did you know that Grace Bradley was born in Harry Thompson's cabin in 1918? She is the only one of the Bradley's ever born on Wagontire. But she was born in that cabin.

RAY: I sure didn't know it.

EDWARD: How big a cabin was it? Just a little ---

RAY: It was just a ---

EDWARD: One room shack?

RAY: Yeah, one room shack is what it was.

EDWARD: Well, what did Harry, what ---

RAY: About 14 ---

EDWARD: 14 by ---

RAY: Yeah, 14 x 14, maybe not that much.

EDWARD: Did, what did Harry Thompson, what the heck was he doing up there?

RAY: Just living there, moon shining. That's all I ---

EDWARD: Did he ever work? I heard he didn't do a damn thing.

RAY: I don't know. I think Oney made most of the whiskey.

EDWARD: Now Oney, his son, when did he die?

VIRGIE: Well, it's been a long time now.

EDWARD: Oh, it has been a long time?

VIRGIE: Yeah, he committed suicide in Lakeview.

EDWARD: Like 20 years?

VIRGIE: Oh yeah, would be.

EDWARD: Oh, that long?

VIRGIE: Oh yeah. Well, Wesley was just a kid, and Wesley is, well it was before he ever went into the service. He was still a teenager, probably still going to school.

EDWARD: Now what year would that be, Virgie? I didn't know he died that long ago.

VIRGIE: Oh, yeah, at least 20, 25 years ago.

EDWARD: Okay.

VIRGIE: Oh, it has to be longer than that. Wesley's daughter is darn near 30.

EDWARD: Thirty years is, God, 1962.

VIRGIE: I'd say about that time. Of course, it is all down there in the courthouse. But it's been at least 30 years since Oney died.

RAY: See Oney and I built fence in the '40's ...

VIRGIE: Oh yeah. That was during the war. But it had to be 30 years or better.

EDWARD: Okay. Now let's --- this is hard to put. Well, you got to get it over with sooner or later. Who do you think killed Ira Bradley in 19---, April 29th, 1930 at Bradley Meadows?

RAY: Well, I always felt that Thompson's did.

EDWARD: Harry?

RAY: I didn't know whether Harry or Oney, or both of them. I had no idea, but I always felt that it was them that did it.

EDWARD: Oney and Harry.

RAY: Uh huh.

VIRGIE: Oney was a tough old character too.

EDWARD: Was he?

VIRGIE: Yes, he was.

EDWARD: Why would they, why would somebody murder Ira Bradley?

RAY: Over whiskey, I'm sure.

VIRGIE: Getting hungry?

EDWARD: Did you ever talk to Oney about that, about Ira Bradley's death?

RAY: I just asked him what happened out there. He didn't know.

EDWARD: Did you know that Ira Bradley was basically beaten to death?

RAY: I know it.

EDWARD: Clubbed to death. Not shot, you know, just ---

RAY: Yeah, yeah, that's the reason I was sure it was them.

EDWARD: You think Ira Bradley would make moonshine? That's a tough ---

RAY: I don't know. He was never making any when we was around there.

EDWARD: And you were there quite a bit.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: But you knew Harry ---

RAY: When we wanted whiskey, we went over ---

EDWARD: You know Thompson had it.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Never went to Ira Bradley to get it.

RAY: Huh uh.

EDWARD: Well, let me throw out some theories and see what you think, because you saw Ira Bradley at Bradley Meadows a number of times.

RAY: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: And he was a darn right, nice guy.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Well, he smoked a pipe, I guess. Grace said that he never touched a drop of liquor in his life. But that doesn't, I don't know, doesn't mean you can't make moonshine. But he had the spring water there. Well anyway, let me throw this thing out, I won't mention any names. Two

guys supposedly stole two barrels of whiskey from Thompson and Bradley and took it to Burns and sold it. And Harry Thompson thought it was Bradley that stole the whiskey, because money meant a lot, you know.

RAY: Oh.

EDWARD: And went and sold it, and therefore beat him. Now these two guys that stole the whiskey, did you ever hear that story?

RAY: Huh uh.

EDWARD: That makes sense to me too. And I, these are pretty reliable people that told me, very reliable. Ray Gowdy was one of them, that's Grace's son. It was Jess Pennington and Hosmer Bradley that took these two barrels of whiskey and took it to Burns, and they thought it was kind of a joke. And sold this --- and Shelby Petersen said he bought some of it.

RAY: (Laughter) Well that's their ---

EDWARD: I didn't tell them that. He said, I remember when they came to town. Could be --- And then Harry didn't know that and killed Bradley over it. But that means, that implicates Bradley was making it too. Well maybe it doesn't, maybe it just ---

RAY: Well, no I know they wasn't making whiskey.

EDWARD: Ira Bradley wasn't?

RAY: No.

EDWARD: I don't think he was either. He was ---

RAY: But Thompson, hell it was no secret about Thompson.

EDWARD: And Oney --- well good god, how old --- when was Oney born do you think, 18--- Was he old when he died?

RAY: He was in World War I.

EDWARD: Oh, he was?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh, I didn't think he was that old. So, Harry Thompson must have been an old guy.

VIRGIE: He was.

RAY: He was no spring chicken.

VIRGIE: He was.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: He was no spring chicken.

VIRGIE: You know, of course there --- that record would be in ---

RAY: That's the reason I always thought that ... that might be another reason that Jess was so God damn quiet on everything around Wagontire.

EDWARD: Jess knows a lot, Ray Houston.

RAY: I figured they did.

EDWARD: He knows quite a bit of what went on around Wagontire.

RAY: When I come here, of course I knew Jess from --- he wasn't out around Wagontire when we was there, but I knew him from --- he'd come out to our country, and he was at Frank's one time. And anyway, I left that horse that I told you that got ... I got the bay horse there at Dobkins. And a brown horse ...

EDWARD: Had a what?

RAY: ... for packing him. Put a pack on him and ...

EDWARD: Oh, oh, okay.

RAY: What breaks out into a sore. Anyway, when I come out here, of course, I found out Jess lived there so I stopped in and visited with him. One day we stopped in, we stopped in there and visited with him, and here was this gray horse. I looked at him and I said, "Where in the hell did you get my horses, Jess?" God his mouth fell open. I said, "Hell that's my horse." I said, "You got him out at Wagontire." Well, he said, "There is no brand on him." I said, "No, but it's Virgie's dad's brand, JJ."

VIRGIE: J6, J6.

RAY: Huh?

VIRGIE: J6 brand.

RAY: Well, I always called it JJ.

VIRGIE: Well, it was J6.

EDWARD: So, who did Jess Pennington work for out there on Wagontire?

RAY: He was with Dobkins a lot.

EDWARD: With Dobkins a lot?

RAY: Yeah, yeah, and I think most of the time.

VIRGIE: I thought he worked for himself.

RAY: Then when he left there ---

EDWARD: Like stealing horses?

RAY: --- then they come over there. Well, his brother was ...

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

RAY: But he come here and worked for Smalls, there where George Carlon lives now, for a long time, and finally bought that ranch. He give \$700.00 for that goddamn ranch.

EDWARD: I can't figure, Pennington he --- I think he knows who murdered Ira Bradley. I think he probably knows a hell of a lot more, too.

RAY: Oh, I'm sure he does, I'm sure he does. Because that's never ---

EDWARD: Do you have any other ideas on Ira Bradley's death, Ray, at all, besides possibly Oney Thompson?

RAY: Well, I never saw Ira even take a drink of whiskey.

EDWARD: No, Grace said he never.

RAY: Come to think about it.

EDWARD: This is a strange one. One of the problems is here, you know, there is no statute of limitations on murder in Oregon. But that's not a real big problem, because I'd say about 90% of the people involved are dead.

RAY: Uh huh.

EDWARD: You know?

VIRGIE: Oney's dad, when he died, had a lot of money.

EDWARD: Harry Thompson?

VIRGIE: Yeah. And he had it --- he died in the hospital in Lakeview. And anyway, Oney thought somebody might have got away with his money. According to him, he had a lot of money. But Oney always had a lot of money.

EDWARD: What did Oney Thompson --- oh he delivered mail.

RAY: He come here and bootlegged for --- when he come to Paisley.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, he ---

RAY: He was bootlegging all the time.

EDWARD: You can't make any money delivering mail. It's like teaching school, you know.

VIRGIE: Yeah. No, he always had a lot of money. Where he got it, I don't know.

EDWARD: That's interesting. Harold Bradley, we got that figured out. Now what did you hear about Jackson? Did you ever hear anything about Jackson's death?

RAY: Huh uh.

EDWARD: What do you know about Link Hutton?

RAY: Nothing about him either. In fact, I often wondered what the hell become of him.

EDWARD: He died in Burns in 1950.

RAY: Oh. ... Paul's dad, he was alive, and he thought a lot of Ira Bradley.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: I talked to him down there on the highway one time, one day. We got to talking about Wagontire and he thought a lot of Ira Bradley.

VIRGIE: I wonder if Tommy Bell would know anything. ...

EDWARD: Well --- the whiskey stealing, Jess Pennington, Hosmer, Hosmer I think is right. Hom a lot of people called him.

RAY: Hom.

EDWARD: Were just kind of mischievous characters, you know. And they were pretty young then.

RAY: Yeah, they was young.

EDWARD: And I --- it's very possible, and I'll tell you Ray Gowdy, who told him, and boy I know damn well that he would know. Ray Gowdy's father told him that, Emil.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: That that's what happened.

VIRGIE: They'd know.

EDWARD: They'd know, yeah. And you can see in the Bradley papers, of course that might be biased. But the Bradley family states clearly that Harry Thompson --- but they screwed up the evidence, let's put it that way, that's what they did.

RAY: Well, the first thing ... the law come in, then they discovered that --- Harney County come in, then they discovered that they was in Lake County, so by the time they got it figured out who in the hell was going to do what, well it was time to bury him.

EDWARD: That's exactly right. It was all goofed up.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: And I can't find a blasted thing about that in Lake County or Harney County, nothing. I think they screwed the whole thing up. Somebody told me that the --- oh I think it was Shelby Petersen who is 89, or maybe 90 now, he said that the sheriff they had there in Harney County was such a fool he'd mess up anything. He'd run to a murder site and mess it up so he wouldn't have to ---

VIRGIE: Wouldn't have to take the true statement?

EDWARD: Yeah, that's probably true. But that's, yeah, that's a strange one, that's real strange.

VIRGIE: No one will ever know.

EDWARD: And Jess Gibson told me that too, the exact same --- And I don't tell them, they just told me outright that's what happened. And Jess Gibson rode over there in that country too, you

know. You know him? Okay. He's from Prineville, but he worked for Bill Brown. But I can't remember how old he is. You're 82 right, Ray? I think he's a little older. Damn, I lost that Paul Brattain, that's not right ---

VIRGIE: Paul J.

RAY: Paul J.

EDWARD: What's his last --- how do you say his last name?

VIRGIE: Brattain.

EDWARD: I did say it right, okay, Brattain.

VIRGIE: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, it's too bad you didn't get a chance to talk to him.

EDWARD: I talked to him on the phone just a few, a month or so before he died. He sounded great, you know. And then ---

VIRGIE: He was a nice old guy.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: We went up and saw him in the hospital ...

VIRGIE: Three days before he died.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, pneumonia, yeah. That's what got my dad too. That gets a lot of old timers.

VIRGIE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Well Ray, you got anything else to add? Did we burn it out pretty good?

RAY: I think so.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: I think so.

EDWARD: When did you guys get married?

RAY: '28.

VIRGIE: '28.

EDWARD: You wouldn't let him ride the range, huh?

VIRGIE: Oh, I think he had enough of it. He went and sold my horse so --- give it away, or

something.

EDWARD: Wait a minute, you were 18.

VIRGIE: Yeah, right.

EDWARD: You guys were young uns.

VIRGIE: Yeah, right.

EDWARD: Wow, 64 years?

VIRGIE: Right.

RAY: Right, right.

EDWARD: Geeze.

VIRGIE: That's too long.

EDWARD: Why Ray?

VIRGIE: Kids had a big get together on our 60th. We got quite a family scattered around all over every place now.

EDWARD: That's forever.

VIRGIE: This boy that's here, he is the youngest grandson.

EDWARD: I --- Russell Emery and his wife have been married 64 years. That's the longest I've ever seen. God, that's a long time.

RAY: They been married that long?

EDWARD: Yeah.

VIRGIE: Well, they were married when we come out here.

RAY: Yeah, I know. But the anniversary --- he give me hell because I couldn't come to his anniversary. I said I didn't know a damn thing about it.

VIRGIE: No, we didn't.

RAY: God damn kids, I don't know why they hadn't notified us, because Christ they knew ---

EDWARD: Yeah, his eyes are getting really bad.

VIRGIE: Yeah.

EDWARD: We spent four hours together like this. Geeze. And then Ray Shaver came down from Medford. Oh my god --- That was a blast, that was a lot of fun. It's a lot of fun doing this. It's good for you guys too, you know. Oh, if he thinks of something when I leave, write it down.

VIRGIE: Okay.

EDWARD: Because I know he will. He'll forget, you know, oh I remember that.

VIRGIE: That's been a lot of years ago.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, yeah. I've only had --- The wool brand, did Bill Brown use a wool brand with a block of wood with ink? Did he ever do that, paint, I mean?

RAY: Paint. Well, everybody does that with sheep. That's the way all the people branded.

EDWARD: Even way back, 1890's? Did you ever see a Bill Brown sheep iron? Or you're saying they used the same iron?

RAY: Oh yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Whew.

RAY: --- I never saw the Horseshoe Bar on the sheep. He quit branding them at that time; he just used paint. He decided not

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