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HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #8 Sides A/B

Subject: Harry Clark

Place: Drewsey, Oregon

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Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

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HARRY CLARK: While I think about it --- I just happened to think of these trees here, where the saloon used to be here, this wind storm come and lifted the roof off of that store over there and laid it in the top of these trees.

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Oh dear. Then it doesn't seem to have damaged the trees too much.

HARRY: For a long while the leaves was a different color from the effect of it.

PAULINE: Yeah, well I can imagine that would be kind of hard on a tree to have a roof fall on it.

HARRY: It just took, lifted the roof off the store and tipped it on over here.

PAULINE: Well, there was a couple of things I wanted to ask you before we went any further.

You were telling me about a fellow by the name of Bradfield that had some Clydesdale mares.

HARRY: Huh?

PAULINE: Clydesdale mares.

HARRY: Oh.

PAULINE: Mr. Bradfield.

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HARRY: Clydesdale horses.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: Yes. I don't know, I think he had about 75 head of mares that he brought over here, a couple stallions. And he and a fellow by the name of Webdell together.

PAULINE: What was this other fellow's name?

HARRY: Webdell.

PAULINE: Webdell?

HARRY: And the old man Webdell filed on a place up there just above where my son's place is there on, at Grange Hall. He filed on a little field there that's known as the Webdell field. And that's where they came when they came from Prineville over here. And then they, I think they come in '87 or '85 I think it was. It could have been '86. But I think they was here one year before the hard winter.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: And then the hard winter just wiped everything out. I think they had two mares left.

PAULINE: Really killed them off then. Yeah. Well that was on that first tape we did and I couldn't, that tape, not any of those were any good and I couldn't remember all of that.

HARRY: But Bradfield he worked for the Company then for years afterwards.

PAULINE: Uh huh, for the PLS Company.

HARRY: Yes. He run that Pine Creek Ranch for a long while.

PAULINE: Well then you were telling me a story about this fellow that came in and bought tobacco. And I didn't understand all of that.

HARRY: About which?

PAULINE: Well about some tobacco. The fellow came in and bought some tobacco and he got

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one-third Danver and ---

HARRY: Oh. An old fellow by the name of Johnson, he, I think it was old Turkey Johnson, I think it was Turkey. There is two or three of those Johnsons around, but I think it was old Turkey. He sent a dozen roosters over for somebody to get him some tobacco.

PAULINE: Yeah, in trade, he sent the roosters to trade for tobacco.

HARRY: Yes, and he said, "I told him just as plain as a man can speak, get two-thirds Bengal and one-third Horseshoe. And he got two-thirds Horseshoe and one-third Bengal." "Oh god, I wished I had my roosters back."

PAULINE: ... Well Bengal then, that's ban ---

HARRY: Two-thirds Bengel and one-third Horseshoe, and he got two-thirds Horseshoe and one-third Bengel.

PAULINE: Well this is two different kinds of tobacco?

HARRY: Smokin' and chewin'.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: The Horseshoe was chewin' tobacco and the Bengel was the smoking tobacco.

PAULINE: Oh, I see, okay. Well, that makes a little more sense now. I just didn't quite understand. He wished he had his roosters back.

HARRY: It was smokin' and chewin' tobacco mixed up on him.

PAULINE: Well, let's see there was something else now I wanted to ask you about. Oh, I know you were telling me the story about Ben South, about the Irishman that came to town and got drunk and gave Ben South's nose a tweak. What was that Irishman's name?

HARRY: A fellow that used to freight here, Charley Cranmer.

PAULINE: Yeah.

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HARRY: He got drunk and he started in at the Riley Saloon, up they're just this side of where the tavern is there a ways. He started out and let a yell out of him. Bet five hundred dollars he could whip any SOB in Drewsey. He yelled that about two or three times coming down to this corner saloon and he stopped, had a few more drinks, cut across the corner and here to this store, and about every third step he would take he would let a yell out of him that he'd bet five hundred he could whip any SOB in Drewsey. He walked in there and this young Bill South was Marshall. He was sitting there on the chair with his feet up on a card table and reared back, asleep, and he had a pretty good-sized nose on him anyway, and Cranmer looked at him a little bit and just walked up and caught it like that and twisted his nose. He said that --- that nose peeled off.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: South jumped up and grabbed him before he finally woke up entirely and they said that his heels hit the ceiling when he throwed him over his head. Bill South was a big husky fellow. He come out and stopped out there in the middle of the street and bet five hundred dollars Bill South could whip any son-of-a-bitch in Drewsey.

PAULINE: He sure changed his tune. That's good. This Charley Cranmer was quite a freighter.

HARRY: I'll say he was a freighter. I really think he is the best freighter that was ever in this country. He is quite a booze fighter, but he always had a big team, he always had a big team. Generally twelve, sometimes fourteen, and his freight would come in, in better shape. There would never be anything broke up at all. I handled his freight there for about five years there in the store, you know. He done almost all the freighting for it. By gollies --- There was an old fellow before Drinkwater got in the store. There was an old fellow by the name of Miller, old Dave Miller, later got burned up over there in the hotel in Burns. He lost his eyesight. There is a rooming house that burned up, and he got burned up in it. He was a pretty contrary old fellow. He come over here to

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the saloon one day when he was running the store here and something come up about Cranmer. And a fellow running the blacksmith shop up here said, "Well, says he is an ornery son of a gun," but he says, "He's the best freighter in the country." He said, "Nobody can beat him." He said, "His team always looks good, hauls the biggest loads, and he comes in with the best sheep, and he always got three or four of the green colts in the bunch." He says, "He's got three this year." This old Miller said, "Confound it, he hasn't got no such a thing, he's only got one." Blacksmith said, "Well I know better than that because I shod them for him when he started out." "Confound it he told me flat footed out of his own mouth that he only had one. "They argued then for quite a while about it, and finally the blacksmith got a little bit sore about it and this fellow was in the store, in the saloon there and got them quieted down. And the old fellow started back across the street and got about halfway over there and turned and said, "Confound it, I say he only had one." (One?)

PAULINE: He had to get the last word in.

HARRY: Gee he was a contrary old fellow. That's a brother to old ... Miller. Cecil Bennett's father, father-in-law, he's a brother to him.

PAULINE: Yeah, Lee Williams was showing me a picture of Cranmer's freight team the other day, and he said he was the best there ever was.

HARRY: I seen Cranmer turn ten head of horses around the street here with three wagons. Just turn them around here.

PAULINE: Turn them around.

HARRY: And not cramp a wagon. He had his horses real trained good. What they used to call the point team is the first two horses in front of the tongue. They had them strung out, you know. And the first two horses in front of the tongue is what they call the pointers. And they ... turn like that, those two horses, they both get on the same side of the chain that they use to pull with, and they'd

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just pull right straight out to one side. Just walk sideways, and walk along there sideways and hold the wagon to keep it from cramping, and that was the way they steered it.

PAULINE: They had to be, the horses had to be pretty smart, and the driver had to be pretty smart.

HARRY: They'd just get down right and just pull ... and walk sideways all the way around. Just sidled around. There used to be some pictures, I think Miler might possibly have some of them. I'll tell you she's got a whole lot of old plates that they, old fellow, Olson, used to take pictures on glass plates. You know how they were. She's got a whole lot of those plates up there that you might find some of these old pictures amongst them. Had some real good pictures. He had pictures of the freight teams and like that, ice and everything like that around.

PAULINE: You were telling that in the spring lots of times that the water would come up in the river and flood the streets and there would be water a couple of feet deep all over town.

HARRY: A couple of what?

PAULINE: We're talking about the water flooding the town in the spring.

HARRY: Oh yeah. Yes, I forget now what year it was that, it was somewhere along about '10 or '12, or somewheres along in there. I think that was the highest water I ever saw here. The people up at Calamity here they run out of feed and started to graze a bunch of horses down to, put out in the Stinkingwater country. There is bunchgrass there that high. They started down with a bunch of horses, they was going to take out there. There was about, better than 2 foot of snow on the level down here. They started down on the 16th day of March, and they got to the top of the, what they call Juniper Ridge up here, and a Chinook wind begin to blow. And the morning of the 17th the water was clear up there to, above where the hall is now. All this lower country and the upper country all went off together, and by golly it was really, really water.

PAULINE: Things really got wet.

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HARRY: I think that was the highest water I, ever was here. I saw ice when I was a kid. I've got on ice up there at the corner, up where the stone building is there, and go clear across over there to that house over there, at the, where Freeman's live. Just walk on ice cakes clear across.

PAULINE: The whole way. Well, you were telling me what this stone building was. You said it was the, was this the first store there, or was it something else?

HARRY: No, it was just a cellar for the storage, for the saloon.

PAULINE: Oh, I see.

HARRY: That was just a storage for the saloon. It set there on that corner. Those trees there wasn't there then. It was just a lone building there. And then next to it there was a little barber; there was a barbershop there. A barbershop and then the livery barn --- no the saloon, the saloon was next. And the livery barn was up there about where the tavern is now. And there was a hotel where those two little buildings were, just the other side of the tavern there, there was a hotel there.

PAULINE: A hotel there.

HARRY: And I forget now who put, who was the original owner of the building there. Curry was the first people that I remember living there. There's another building on up there in those trees, there was a dwelling there. Just about, along about where the, where those big --- where that there gravel goes in there. There was a dwelling there, I think it was the Curry's, the first people that I remember living there. But there was somebody that went there before, that was there before that. You said you wanted the --- to get an idea about the way the buildings were.

PAULINE: Yeah, I got a map back here that --- I'll get it out here in a minute. Yeah, it's right here. Let's see how this goes. This is north up here. This is the Odd Fellow's Hall, and the Bartell's Hotel, Bartlett Hotel.

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HARRY: No.

PAULINE: And the Post Office, and the Porter Sitz Store here.

HARRY: ...

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: Porter Sitz Store here.

PAULINE: And then Olson's Saloon over here. The Swede Saloon.

HARRY: They called it the Corner Saloon.

PAULINE: The Corner Saloon.

HARRY: Yes. And then next to it was a barbershop there.

PAULINE: I got the Olson's Saloon in there. Was it on further down here?

HARRY: Olson's Saloon was along about where the, Livery Stable was --- the Olson Saloon was along about where the tavern is there.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

HARRY: Just this side of it.

PAULINE: There is a barbershop in here between Olson's Saloon and the Swede Saloon.

HARRY: And then there is a barn after the ---

PAULINE: And the Hamilton barn.

HARRY: Yes, the Hamilton barn. That was ... Hamilton.

PAULINE: Okay, and I've got there then. And the Miller Hotel.

HARRY: Up there is Miller, yeah. M I L L E R, yeah. It was called the City Hotel, is what it was called. That was Milt Davis' place.

PAULINE: Davis house. And a Dr. Smith then had a place over there.

HARRY: Then Smith's got a place up on the hill there. A place on the hill.

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PAULINE: Let me put this barbershop in there before I forget. It went in there.

HARRY: There was something else between --- Porter Sitz Store ... This here country here is ... it was the valley here.

PAULINE: Here, why don't you write on, use this to write on and then you won't ---

HARRY: Well, this here is ... Valley. It run that way.

PAULINE: Yeah, it's not exactly ...

HARRY: Now the PLS Company addition is back there. And it took in the, fenced up, ... yard fence there of Allen's is on PLS Company line. They laid it all north and south.

PAULINE: So we've got a, kind of a V-shaped piece in there.

HARRY: ... right back of the, right back of this here building here. So, you can see that it run two different directions. This was the north and south, you see, PLS Company. And this is the original town site.

PAULINE: Uh huh. And it's laid out kind of ---

HARRY: Yeah.

PAULINE: So that's really, then on this. This really didn't go up here and turn a corner, it kind of went, the street went this way.

HARRY: Yes. Then you see this --- That shed, the back part of that shed is on the, is on that line.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

HARRY: And that runs in on up here, about where the, I think the PLS Company additions, some place along about where the church is, the Catholic Church is, it cut in there. And straight on over there. And that side of that, you see, runs north and south, and this side ---

PAULINE: Katty-corner. Well, how long has the Catholic Church been here in Drewsey? Has it been here a long, long time?

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HARRY: Oh no, it hasn't been here so awful long. It was --- oh its been here fifty years, something like that, but then that's not long.

PAULINE: Well, it would be about 1920 then, wouldn't it?

HARRY: Well sometime along about then.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: I kind of think maybe Cas would remember when that was put in.

PAULINE: I was gonna see her this afternoon, but she went to Vale today, so I'll have to catch her again later.

HARRY: She might remember when that Catholic Church was put in. If not, well the Catholic would remember when it was. But this one here has just, hasn't been here but a few years.

PAULINE: Yeah, it's a new building. Well, what about the Community Church over here? Has it been here longer than the Catholic Church? The Community Church over here?

HARRY: Yes, it was here longer than the Catholic Church was. It used to be a residence there, about where that old building is there. Johnson's had a residence there, and that was a store there where that old building is. And just the other side of it was a blacksmith's shop; there was a blacksmiths shop there.

PAULINE: Over there along the river.

HARRY: Right there on that slough.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Well this is a slough then that comes through here. This isn't a river.

HARRY: Yes, that is just a slough.

PAULINE: The river goes on down.

HARRY: Yeah, clear down that, on that third bridge.

PAULINE: Does this slough have a name, or do they just call it the slough?

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HARRY: That is the only thing I have ever heard it called. ... washing the bridges out.

PAULINE: Oh dear. That probably isn't printable, is it?

HARRY: Up there about where the town hall is now, I think it is just a little bit further along ... was just a little fellow. One of the Riley boys had a house there, had a residence there. And then up there where the schoolhouse is, on above it is where the other schoolhouse used to be. But the first schoolhouse is across over here on, just about where the county buildings are there someplace. ... (Tractor went by on street)

HARRY: ... It had two rooms, one upstairs and one down. And then there's several residences back over in there too. It would be a residence across from the --- where the street just, that corner there where the church is. Just on this side of this street, there was a residence there. There's a residence there, and there's one just across the, east and west street there. There's one, two, three, about three or four more residence on that lot. When it was first incorporated they had to crowd it a little bit to get the five hundred residences here to incorporate it. It took in Williams' place over here, and Cranmer's over there, and the town incorporation run through there along about where those trees are over there along that road. The incorporation line run along about there some place.

PAULINE: They got out so they could get five hundred residences.

HARRY: Yes. Crowded them just a little bit. That was in '89 I think, or '99.

PAULINE: Is Drewsey still incorporated today then?

HARRY: Huh?

PAULINE: Is Drewsey still an incorporated town today?

HARRY: No, no, they let the incorporation go. No, they have a regular town office, town hall over there. Over there just across from the, where the church is, they had a town hall there. There are several residence on over in that way, back in there, run up and down. Now there is several

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residences. I could be mistaken, but there's a possible chance now that those incorporation took in where Pat O'Toole is out here, I wouldn't say for sure now but it did.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well at any rate they went way out.

HARRY: Yes, they had to.

PAULINE: Made their line way out.

HARRY: They had to go out. Give them plenty of room to expand.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well, you said you worked at the store as a young man. How long did you work at the store over here?

HARRY: Too long.

PAULINE: Too long. Now how many years all together?

HARRY: About five years.

PAULINE: About five years.

HARRY: Then Baker came to this country in '89 I think it was. Bill Baker came here in the fall of '87 or '88, or the spring of '89. And he started in; he started in to boosting the town. He was the fellow that got the incorporation and everything else. Any improvement that was ever done here, they can lay to him.

PAULINE: Now this is Baker?

HARRY: Bill Baker.

PAULINE: Bill Baker.

HARRY: W. D. Baker. He came from California up here. He was a real booster.

PAULINE: Yeah. And then you worked, you did some logging with the sawmill, you worked with some, cutting some logs and bringing them down the river, didn't you?

HARRY: Oh, I think I'd leave that part of that out. I think I was running logs three or four years

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down there. Have you talked to Altnow since I saw you?

PAULINE: No, I haven't talked, I went over and talked to Lee Williams. He is the last one I've talked to.

HARRY: Well Lee doesn't know who, doesn't know how that mill run.

PAULINE: No, I haven't been over to Altnow's yet.

HARRY: But the --- I'm sure there was a mill up there, but who it was I don't know. Who had that mill I don't know, but they used to have that gristmill across over there. Robbins and Perrington put it in.

PAULINE: Well how long have you lived at the place where you live now?

HARRY: Oh, I put up that house in --- I was married in '16, I put up that house in '17.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Well, you've been there awhile then haven't you?

HARRY: I've been there a couple years.

PAULINE: Yeah. And you've had cattle then over the years.

HARRY: Cattle and horses.

PAULINE: Well, what are some of the things, you said you had a whole list of things that you wanted to tell me about. Can you remember what some of those things were? Looks like everybody is really starting to get going with their haying. I see equipment going back and forth here all afternoon.

HARRY: I just jotted down some dope when I think of it. I think maybe you got most of it anyway. Did I tell you about a stage being held up and robbed here one time?

PAULINE: No, you didn't tell me about that.

HARRY: It was over here on Bendire Mountain. My mother was postmaster here then. It was held up there and robbed. That is the only stage robbery I ever knew of around here.

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PAULINE: Was that, was his name Harve somebody? Harve? The stage driver, was his name Harve something?

HARRY: Oh, there was a dozen different boys. The fellow that was driving then, I believe his name was Frank Shields. I'm not sure now. They robbed the stage and told him to drive on to a certain place and wait there for three hours.

PAULINE: And so he did.

HARRY: August Muller's family, they settled up there where I live now, where Joel Sword lives, on down this way. Their first son, the first boy was born in '88, was born in '88. He died at birth. And then the --- when the next boy was about 4 or 5 years old he was a following his --- he was following his Papa down, his father was leading his horse down to water and the little feller was a following along behind, right behind him and got kicked along side of the head. And you could just see, just see the pulsation there in the shape of the horse's foot.

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sake.

HARRY: And he come out of it all right, but he finally died after he got to be 21 or 22 years old, when he died though. And then one of the little girls --- they had the building on a little knoll out in the field up there. That old man drove his wagon up there one night and put the brake on, left it setting on that knoll ... down there and unhooked and left it set there. The next morning the kids all decided they was going to take a ride, and the boy, the boy that had got kicked he got up on the seat and told the girls to get in, and one girl hadn't gotten in yet. She was still on the hind wheel climbing in when he throwed the brake off and the wagon pulled out and run over her, and broke her neck.

PAULINE: Oh my, that is terrible. This is your wife's family wasn't it?

HARRY: Yes, that was Muller family. And Cas's father, I always figured if he had had the

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opportunity that he would have been a great surgeon. The people get hurt; they would always run to him to be doctored up.

PAULINE: Now what was his name?

HARRY: Ace Johnson, A. I. Johnson.

PAULINE: Ace Johnson.

HARRY: There was one fellow, one of the Miller boys, one of the Millers that used to live up above here, they was working horses out here, in what they call the Howell Field. Out in Otis Valley, above Roberts there. And of course they had a bottle or two with them, and they used to work horses there, they would hold a bunch of horses until they would get anywhere from a dozen up to fifteen or twenty stallions in there to work on. And when they would work on one of those canyons these fellows would stagger. These fellows would get pretty well tanked up. Somebody would get up with him when they turned him loose. That Miller he got on one four year old stallion that they had worked, he got on one and he went around the corral about twice and somebody threw the gate open and out through the gate he went and hit a wire fence and cut the horse all to pieces and just stripped Miller's legs and arms and across his body, and just cut all to pieces. Ace Johnson sewed him up. Took and cleaned him out and sewed him up.

PAULINE: Sewed him up.

HARRY: And another time, somebody got an Indian on a horse and in the back of the barn there is a loft or something like that, and ... just could duck his head and ride in under there. And the hay mound was up above it, and this Indian was riding a bareback horse out the back of the corral there, back of the barn and somebody opened the door so that the horse saw that opened door and out through there he went. And it caught this Indian right there and just scalped him.

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PAULINE: Scalped him, wow.

HARRY: And Ace Johnson fixed him up, cleaned him up and sewed his scalp back on.

PAULINE: Oh dear.

HARRY: And then Jack Drewitt, a horse threw Jack Drewett off one time on one of those little gravelly ridges. He lit on his head and it scalped him. And Johnson got some tweezers and picked out all that gravel out of his scalp. He had a patch about the size of that and sewed it back on there. I always figured if he had had an opportunity to be a surgeon he would have been a good one.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

HARRY: Know anything about what the equipment was called on these freight teams?

PAULINE: Well, a little bit, but not a whole lot. But if you could tell me some things about that, that would be really good.

HARRY: You've heard this expression the G-string, but then you had a different name for it.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: They used to call it a little strip that women wore, you know, you would call that a G string. Well, a G string, when they was breaking a horse to the jerk line, they would take and tie this here lead horse, they'd tie the lead horse ---

PAULINE: Okay, the jerk line went down along here, didn't it?

HARRY: Yeah, the jerk line went down along the outside and it, take and tie the bit up that line, and connected up to this horse's bridle.

PAULINE: Right up like that.

HARRY: And then they would put a string on this side and put ---

PAULINE: Over to this other horse?

HARRY: Yeah. No, put a string over here and tie this back to the hame.

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PAULINE: Oh, back this way.

HARRY: Short string, yes.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: And that was called a G-string.

PAULINE: Okay.

HARRY: They used that when they was a breaking a horse. When they would jerk on the line, that is where they got the jerk line, when they jerk on it. The horse would throw his head off, and then this here short string would pull him to the right, gee.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: See gee to the right and haw to the left. And that is where they got the G-string. They would pull his head that way.

PAULINE: I didn't know that. I knew about this jerk line here. And then they had something, didn't they; between these two horses so when this one turned right ---

HARRY: Yeah, and this was a jockey stick.

PAULINE: A jockey stick, yeah.

HARRY: This went to the jockey stick, went from this horse's bit over to the hames of this other horse, and when this horse would turn, when he would jerk, well that horse would turn, and that would force the other horse to turn. That was called a jockey stick.

PAULINE: Yeah, that was right in there.

SIDE B

HARRY: The main steering was done from the swing team here.

PAULINE: That was this pair right here was the swing team?

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HARRY: That was the swing team.

PAULINE: Okay.

HARRY: That was the fours.

PAULINE: These four.

HARRY: Yeah, you see, this would be the wheel team and that would be the swing team. And these others would be the lead team, would be the last one. It was --- if it had ten head well it would have five of them strung out here, you see.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: But this here is always the swing team. And the reasons is the swing team, because they is the ones that done the steering of the wagon.

PAULINE: Uh huh, they did the steering.

HARRY: Swing team.

PAULINE: Were they always the second in line ---

HARRY: Always.

PAULINE: --- from the wagon?

HARRY: Always the second team.

PAULINE: From the wagon?

HARRY: Yes.

PAULINE: But they might have four or five, I mean they might have four.

HARRY: Or they'd have ---

PAULINE: A whole bunch out in front of them.

HARRY: Whole bunch out in front of it. But the swing team, and sometimes the wheel horses would get them to pull out to help steer a little bit.

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PAULINE: And they called these the wheel horses.

HARRY: And the near horse he'll always --- they always rode him. I see a picture in the paper up in Ontario here not so awful long ago some fellow telling about the freight team. It said that the, they told about it, they said that the driver always rode an extra horse off to one side.

PAULINE: I read that and I wondered because we'd, we talked, I don't know whether it was you or someone else I had talked to a little bit, but I got the impression that they rode one of these horses.

HARRY: They rode the wheel horse.

PAULINE: And I saw that and I thought, I wondered about that till I thought that maybe I had it mixed up.

HARRY: Now you take a four-horse team, you know, where they didn't have them strung out, riding the wheel horse, the brake was on this side of the wagon; the brake was on this side of the wagon. The brake over here on a big team is on the left side of the wagon.

I guess you had two or three people tell you about the shoe, what they called a shoe. They had a big flat iron, iron run up on each side of it and a ring in front here and a heavy chain. And that chain run up to the body of the bed, and on a steep hill they'd run the, they'd put that up there and run this hind wheel of the wagon in there and it would be, that wheel would be locked, you see, and they would just drag it. That would hold it.

PAULINE: Keep it from rolling back.

HARRY: That would keep it; no it would keep it from going too fast or crowding off over the grade or something. They'd hold it over, you see.

PAULINE: Okay, they called this a shoe.

HARRY: That was a shoe.

PAULINE: It was an iron piece that they put on the back wheel to keep it from, or to make it drag

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instead of turn.

HARRY: Turned up here at the point, a chain in there. The chain went up to the wagon bed. The wheels, the wagon wheels set right in here, that was solid iron all around. That was called a shoe.

PAULINE: I wanted you to tell me about that.

HARRY: Now what they call a rough lock, it had a big heavy chain made out of stuff about like that. They would just take and wrap that around the ... of a wheel a time or two between the spokes and it would go up to the side of the wagon and that would plow down there. And they used it for going down the road, in the bad places. That was called a rough lock.

PAULINE: A rough lock, okay.

HARRY: You've heard them speak about a fifth wheel, haven't you?

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: Have you any idea what that was?

PAULINE: The fifth wheel? No.

HARRY: Well you know on a wagon or old buggy, you know there used to be this circle in under the --- across the axle that the front of the bed set on this here circle. And that circle was, that was called the fifth wheel.

PAULINE: It went around and round too?

HARRY: No, it just turned when the wheels would turn.

PAULINE: Oh. Why, I mean what was it --- did it help steer or help to turn it?

HARRY: It allowed it to steer, you see. It would give the front wheels a chance to turn. But that's --- part of it is was fastened to the axle of the rig, and the other was fastened to the body of the bed, and that did it.

PAULINE: That would turn, help turn.

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HARRY: That was called a fifth wheel. Then stretchers, you know what they are?

PAULINE: No, what is a stretcher?

HARRY: Huh?

PAULINE: A stretcher?

HARRY: Well ---

PAULINE: Yeah, right here.

HARRY: Now the --- these have what they call double trees. The teams has, you know what the double tree is?

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: And then there's a chain come on up here between them, and the single tree, a single tree over here that ... had a bar between there instead of the double tree, it had a bar there. That was called stretchers.

PAULINE: Okay.

HARRY: Each team had a set of stretchers.

PAULINE: Between the single trees, yeah.

HARRY: And you know what a neck yoke is on a wagon?

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: Here's one that your husband knows about. You know what a trip roper is?

PAULINE: Well, a trip roper is something that lets something else go, but where did they use it?

HARRY: Well, where it got its name for a trip rope, they would take a horse that was mean, about to run off to some place or something, and they'd put a ring on the hame and run a rope through that ring and down to his front foot, and if he would start to run or anything with it ---

PAULINE: Pull the trip rope and ---

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HARRY: Pull the trip rope and down he would go. That's the way they had of breaking him from running off.

PAULINE: Well that would do it, wouldn't it? No, I didn't know that.

HARRY: The jockey box, you know what that is?

PAULINE: No.

HARRY: You have seen the freight wagons, haven't you?

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: The big box on the front, on the front end of the bed.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: Across, what they carried tools in.

PAULINE: Okay, that was the jockey box.

HARRY: That was the jockey box.

PAULINE: Well, you know this is what we called that there (referring to an automobile) is the jockey box, but I didn't know why.

HARRY: And sand board, that there is, that was the, the sand board is what the bolster of the freight wagon set on, the bolster.

PAULINE: Here, you got the wrong end there. Yeah, this is the---

HARRY: The bolster was --- And then there is a long iron here instead of that there fifth wheel, there was a long iron there, and another one here on the, on that like that, it set on the running gear of the wagon. That was called the sand board.

And then on above, jumping around here quite a bit, but up there on Pine Creek, on up, out to the road that leads to Pine Creek there, Pine Creek goes on up to the right as you are going up, on up above there a couple three miles there is a big draw that runs on down into, hit Pine Creek. They

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called, that was the Yarnell Gulch.

PAULINE: Yeah, you were telling me something about that one time before. It was named for some people named Yarnell.

HARRY: And Little Pine, that, the road follows up to the highway, they call that Little Pine now. That used to be called Chimney Creek. There was an old Chimney up there that was Chimney Creek. I told you about the newspaper. Here is a couple of amusing things. You'll never want to put it in, but it won't hurt you to know it. But old Sam Williams decided he would go hunting one day, he had an old single shotgun. He cleaned his gun all up nice, and had his shells all laying out on the table. And he went out and hunted all day. He said he was quite a hand to say, "By George!" He said, "By George, you know when I came in that evening," he said, "The first thing I saw was all my cartridges laying on the table." He said, "I've never had a nicer hunt in my life!" He didn't have a shell.

PAULINE: He didn't have a shell with him.

HARRY: An old fellow by the name of Renwald --- you know what they called Sam Lloyd place up here now?

PAULINE: Well, I don't but ---

HARRY: Well it's on up toward Silvies on that road.

PAULINE: Okay.

HARRY: An old fellow by the name of Renwald had that place there. He decided he'd go out hunting one day and he got his old gun and went out. He's an old German. He said that he walked up on the hill and there was a real nice deer standing there looking at him. He said, "I pulled up and shot and the deer walked off." He said, "I went a little farther and walked on to another one and he walked away from me when I shot him." Said, "I don't think I hit either one of them." He said, "I

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decided that I wasn't going to get a deer so I went back home and I thought I would clean my gun."

And he said, "You know both of those bullets were stuck in that gun!"

PAULINE: Wow, if he would of shot one more time it could have been disastrous. Stuck in the barrel, huh?

HARRY: An old fellow had an old span of mules. A big steer that belonged to the PLS Company kept breaking into his haystack. He put him out and he finally got so he would find him, but he couldn't get him out. He put a big heavy rope on the back end of his wagon one day and made a loop in it and backed in there and got down and backed in and begin to boost the steer, and he run up to him and he dropped the loop over his head and hollered at the team and away they went. And they drug him out, drug him around out there in the flat for a little while until he begin to lay still, and he backed up on him and took the rope off and turned him loose.

I told you about the bridges breaking in here. One out here broke in two, with a the load of freight.

PAULINE: No, you didn't tell me about that.

HARRY: On that old road they put a little bridge there at the, one of the span, and the freight wagon with a load of wool broke in there, and they had quite a time of getting it out. And out here on the old road out to Otis, they used to, out there to, a mile the other side of French's place. The road went around and on up through the valley over there, the other side of the valley there. And there was a bridge out there across the Otis ... The second to the wagon, and the hind wheels of the first wagon broke in there. It was a load of freight ...

PAULINE: That would be quite a job to get out too, wouldn't it?

HARRY: And there is a picture of that someplace around the country, and I imagine that the plates of those, is up there at Milers here. I'm not sure, but I, the plates, I just imagine the plates of both of

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those are up there. If you get the plates why you could get some prints made off of them.

Funny thing that happened up there the couple staying at the old Sammy Williams' place. They begin to talk about separating, and one night the girl's nephew, or niece, the girl's niece was there, stayed all night. And she and the niece slept in one room and her husband was in another room just the side. And they commenced to talking back and forth, and she kept a teasing him and fooling around with him. And he asked her to come in and she wouldn't do it, so he decided he would go in and get her. He went in and they scuffled around a little bit and there is a stove hole in the, stove hole pipe, where the pipe goes up through it, with this here stove down below. She stepped in that stovepipe hole and down she went with one leg. She asked this old Sammy Williams if he would be a witness for her for her divorce. Well he said, "By George," he says, "I don't know anything that would get you a divorce." "Well," she said, "you saw my leg come down through that stove pipe," she said, "where he forced my leg through that stove pipe hole that night." "By George," he said, "I did." He said, "It was a very beautiful leg," but he said, "I wasn't familiar enough with it to know who it belonged to."

PAULINE: Oh dear.

HARRY: No good for you. I knew a fellow that, an old fellow that run that newspaper, the old fellow that run that newspaper, old Heath. When the train first hit Vale, it run into Vale, that was as far as it come. He decided he would round up his kids, he had ten or twelve of them, and he would take them down to see a train. He said he figured on driving in that night, they camped out going down, coming back. He said he figured on them seeing the train, and then he would come on out of town that night. Said, "You know, when that train come in and the whistle blowed," he said, "I was a watching the train and I looked around pretty quick and I didn't see a one of my children." He said, "It was a week before I finally found them out there in the sagebrush."

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PAULINE: That whistle really scared them.

HARRY: You remember when the stage used to go down here to Juntura, where Pat Thompson goes over --- you know where you first come out into the valley there at Juntura, the first building you come to there is a little creek runs down there.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: They used to cross that creek right above ... above that house there. And he went down there that morning, crossed that little run off of water there, he crossed alright, went on down to ... In Juntura about an hour, come back out, and when he come back there was, just settled like that in quicksand. Just the top was all that was sticking out.

PAULINE: Oh my goodness.

HARRY: That was ... used to be on Stinkingwater, that quicksand.

PAULINE: Yeah, that quicksand. Well, I never had heard about there being quicksand there on Stinkingwater, that's interesting. There isn't, it isn't there anymore, or it dried up so it isn't---

HARRY: What?

PAULINE: Is it still there?

HARRY: I don't know, I haven't heard anything about it. I don't think there is enough moisture there anymore.

PAULINE: Yeah. But if it got wet enough again why it would be.

HARRY: That's what it is, the moisture underneath.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: That's where Stinkingwater got its name, it was originally Sinking.

PAULINE: Sinkingwater.

HARRY: Sinkingwater. It used to sink up above there, and run underneath all the way down there.

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PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: That's where the quicksand come in. That loose stuff underneath. Something else ...

PAULINE: All right.

HARRY: Kids make some pretty fancy remarks around here. This little girl here of Williams' one time, out there in the store here, three or four years ago, and Sam started to go up the aisle there, and he just about bumped into her and he put her hand on her and moved to one side. I said you better look out, Sam's going to run over you. She looked at me, and I said what would you do if Sam did run over you? She said, "I'd get up." (Laughter) ... talk to Nora up here, and my daughter asked her if she remembers when a fellow by the name of Claude McGee, you know the McGee's over there at Burns?

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: He worked on this road up here and stay out there at our place. Came from Burns one night and he brought a package of gum and gave it to her. She was about four years old then, something like that, and my wife says to her, says what are you going to say to Mr. McGee now for giving you the gum? ... said give me some more.

PAULINE: That sounds like a kid all right. At least being honest.

HARRY: Give me some more. You know the, John McRae over here?

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: ... I don't think there is anything else there.

PAULINE: Well, there is one other question I had to ask, that I wanted to ask you too. It was about the stage stop at Foppiano. Did you ever stay there, or can you tell me anything about that?

HARRY: Oh, the ... used to stay all night there.

PAULINE: They didn't.

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HARRY: No. They just come clear through and they'd serve meals.

They served meals, and they served meals over here at what they called Bendire Creek, the other side of --- my daughter-in-laws mother used to run that place, Wilson's. They served meals there, but they'd just stop and change horses there, and if anybody wanted a meal why they could have it. That was --- Foppiano, they always called it ... Foppiano run it. But she run that their stage station there for a long while.

PAULINE: She must have been quite a personality from the way people mention her. They always chuckle when they mention the place.

HARRY: Yeah, there is always old ...

PAULINE: Lee Williams was telling me that he thought some of the buildings were still standing there.

HARRY: At what?

PAULINE: At Foppiano's.

HARRY: I think some of them is there yet.

PAULINE: Yeah. Would they be too hard to get to?

HARRY: Well, I think you'd have to, I think the best way to get to them, you can get to them alright, but I think the best way is to go down to Harper and across to old Westfall, and then back up this way.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: It's about; it's the first station out this side of Westfall.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: And then the next station they come over Bendire Mountain, and the next station was Wilson's.

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PAULINE: Uh huh. And then on into Drewsey.

HARRY: And then they used to keep a swing team there where the reservoir is, they used to keep a team in there, they'd change teams. But there is no stopping place there.

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: Only just for the changing horses. They'd have to make about, one, two, three, four, five, --- they kept a swing team out there at ... they generally kept one out there. And sometimes they'd keep one out here to; you know where Sitz's place is out here?

PAULINE: Yeah.

HARRY: In that building up above there, there is a spring there. I bet he told you about he was born at that spring. They kept a team there. Next team was over at Buchanan's. There was extra teams there, but they generally --- I think they changed drivers part of the time at Wilson's. I think that's where they changed the drivers. Now Lee should remember that, where they changed. One driver didn't come clear through from --- I know for a while they, extra driver stayed here that ... on into Burns. And he'd have to come back to here the next day then. ...

There is one fellow ... at Foppiano's one time, that was when I was working in the store. There was a new drummer come in, drummers used to come in here, flock into the store. There was a new one come in and he had a nice fur overcoat on. And the stage drivers was always willing to help the ranchers or anything. ... a cow stuck in the mud. He backed up to her and put a rope on her and drug her out and turned her loose. Drug her out a ways from the water, a ways, and this here new drummer he was standing there with his big fur overcoat on, between her and where they turned the cow loose in the mud. He was standing there taking it all in, and the driver turned her over and give her a boost to help her up with. She looked up and saw that fellow and took a run at him, and in the mud hole both went.

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PAULINE: Oh no, in his beautiful fur coat.

HARRY: If you ever saw a man mad, now he was the next morning when he come in here.

PAULINE: I bet he was.

HARRY: Those Comegys' used to get into it every once in awhile when new ones coming in. That Cranmer I was telling you about used to take ... dogs. See a dog coming down the street he'd hump up some way and scare him. The dog would howl out ...

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sakes.

HARRY: One drummer, one drummer come in, he'd been told about how Cranmers used to scare the dogs around here, and he thought he'd scare one. A fellow had a bulldog here, and he met him over on the store porch and he humped up and got down and begin to woof. The dog made a dive for him and got him by the coat collar there.

PAULINE: Didn't work for him. Oh dear.

HARRY: He wanted to kill it; he wanted to kill the dog.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well, it wasn't the poor old dog's fault. Oh dear.

HARRY: Oh, they used to, some odd things happened around here. You say you might go up and get those pictures this afternoon?

PAULINE: Well, I ---

HARRY: Or would you rather ---

PAULINE: I'd like to take a picture of you, if you'd let me.

HARRY: No ...

PAULINE: No, I really would. I'd like to, I've been writing some stuff for the Oregonian, and I'd like to write up a story about you for the Oregonian.

HARRY: No, let's please leave that out, won't you?

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PAULINE: Well ---

HARRY: Now I said please.

PAULINE: Yeah. You don't care if I write up some of the stories you told me though, the ones that are just funny. Like about the freighters getting robbed, and that sort of thing.

HARRY: At least you could use my name the better it will suit me.

PAULINE: Well, I'll have to, I'd like to tell a little bit about you, because after all you are the ---

HARRY: You can just say the --- you don't have to mention me at all. Just say I gave you some information.

PAULINE: Okay.

HARRY: I don't say that anything I told you exactly is authentic, but then it's the way that I remember it.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well, this is the, the only thing anybody can do. And I think you've told me some interesting things about, things, the way things happened. And I think it would be interesting for other people to read it. And I'd like to write ---

HARRY: You can just say an old timer that told you.

PAULINE: An old timer that told me.

HARRY: No, I don't believe in too much publicity. Had a little accident here the other day up here. Joel Sword's wife, you know?

PAULINE: Oh yeah.

HARRY: ...

PAULINE: Oh no.

HARRY: She's supposed to be home today. But they think it is going to be all right. But it just about put the eye clear out.

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PAULINE: Yeah, that could really be bad. Well how far do you have to go to ---

HARRY: Well about ...

PAULINE: At Riley's. How far is that?

HARRY: Oh, twelve, fifteen miles.

PAULINE: Well why don't we go up to Riley's then, and then maybe another time we can go to the other --- or is it just a little ways further then?

HARRY: It is only about five or six miles further on up.

PAULINE: Well why don't we go do that. I've got four pictures left. I've got six pictures left; oh I've got plenty. Let's do that then.

(Hearing aid whistle on tape makes it very hard to understand what is being said at times.)

(END OF TAPE)

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