

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #1 Side A

Subject: Burns Volunteer Ambulance Service

With Loran Allen, Bud Campbell & Todd Campbell

Place: Burns Fire Hall, Burns, Oregon

Date: December 13, 1973

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

PAULINE BRAYMEN: This is Pauline Braymen; I'm interviewing Loran Allen, and Bud and Todd Campbell of the Burns Volunteer Ambulance. Okay, well Loran, first of all, will you tell me when you came to Burns and how you happened to come here?

LORAN ALLEN: Well, I came here in 1942, in April, and I signed up with the Employment Service in Ontario and I had a job at the Edward Hines Lumber Company.

PAULINE: I don't think I was recording when you first started to talk, can you tell me that over? (Laughter) I'm sorry. I didn't have the button pushed clear down. So tell me again Loran when you came.

LORAN: I came the 10th of April, 1942. I had signed up with the Employment Service at Ontario, Oregon. And I had a job waiting for me at the Edward Hines Lumber Company.

PAULINE: Okay, and Todd, when did you come?

TODD CAMPBELL: Well, I first landed out here in 1938.

PAULINE: That's the same year I landed here.

TODD: And I and my oldest brother come out. He come out to work on the paper out here, the old Harney County American.

PAULINE: Really?

TODD: Yeah.

PAULINE: I may want to interview you again about that.

TODD: Well, I can't tell you much about that. And I've been here ever since.

PAULINE: And when did you come?

BUD CAMPBELL: I came here in 1946, April of 1946. I came out of the service out here.

PAULINE: Uh huh. When did you join the Volunteer Fire Department?

BUD: I think it was in 1946, but I don't remember the date.

TODD: I joined it in 1953. Because they just got the ... just before I joined the department.

LORAN: I joined it in 1955.

PAULINE: Now, as I understand it, before the firemen had an ambulance service, Harold Olsen down here at the mortuary, took the hearse out?

BUD: No.

TODD: No.

LORAN: No. He had a Mercury that the center doorpost came out of. And he could load a person on a stretcher in the Mercury.

TODD: I believe it was a 1949 Merc, wasn't it?

LORAN: I believe it was.

TODD: Somewhere along in there.

PAULINE: It wasn't even a station wagon then. Just a regular sedan.

LORAN: Two-door sedan.

TODD: He had it fixed so he could take the right front seat out and make a place in there for a stretcher.

LORAN: And the center door post come out.

BUD: It didn't have a center doorpost. It was just a two-door. It had a wide door. A big wide door on it.

TODD: That door was pretty near as wide as this table.

PAULINE: So then how did the firemen decide that they were going to get into the ambulance service? Was he getting ready to retire?

LORAN: No. But he didn't particularly want it and as I remember it, we talked to him about it before. We figured the community needed an ambulance. Then Ganger and Grover they donated a 1942 Packard ambulance to the Fire Department and that's how, what they started out with.

They'd bought a bunch of used cars and this Packard; Cadillac was in that bunch of used cars.

TODD: Packard ambulance.

LORAN: And they started driving it in and the motor blew up in it and then they loaded it into one of these convoys and brought it on in. And they went through it and completely overhauled that motor. And they wanted to donate it to some organization in town to start an ambulance. And the fire department took it over.

PAULINE: As I understand it, it was broke down more than it was on the road most of the time.

TODD: Well yeah. I made a trip to Bend in it one time and pulled into the hospital and parked and delivered the patient, and came back out and started that motor up and you'd thought it was a doggone airplane. Pulled ahead and there laid the muffler on the pavement.

PAULINE: Oh, dear.

TODD: The muffler fell off of it while we was delivering the patient up to the room.

LORAN: Then it was broke down a lot. And then you didn't have any assurance when you was going to get where you was going. So we decided then --- the people kinda got behind them a little bit, and decided then to get a new ambulance. This was by the

firemen, not the city or the county.

PAULINE: Yeah, this is, as I understand it. You ---

BUD: The fire department went to work and had meetings and everybody, they figured out, and everybody on the fire department agreed to donate their time for three years to buy the new ambulance. And they made arrangements with the city for so much a year, and the county got behind it and the County --- Jenkins --- the County Commissioners said if we'd buy a Cadillac they'd give us \$1,000 a month on it --- a year on it.

PAULINE: A year on it.

BUD: And at that time, the city was putting in \$2,500 a year for wages for fighting fires.

LORAN: Well, the city had it set up for \$2,500 a year for wages and entertainment for the firemen. So they just collected this \$2,500 a year on the ambulance instead of taking any wages or entertainment.

TODD: Yeah, we fought fire around here for three years just for the pleasure, just for the fun of it. (Laughter)

LORAN: No, I don't think so. My thought on that is that a person has a duty to the community and the community deserves the protection of the fire department and that's the only reason that I ever joined the fire department to start with.

TODD: Well, that's right.

LORAN: Instead of, you know, somebody has to do it. And somebody has to have done it for me. So I figure it was my turn to do it for somebody else.

TODD: And the outfit that we dealt with there in Portland on the ambulance was a little bit leery about going along with us, the way we had it set up. But the salesman, he finally talked to the big boy and they finally went along with us on it. We figured it would take three years to pay for it. And we paid it off in a year and a half.

PAULINE: This is what Diaz (Fire Chief) said, that by the time that you were in operation

a little while, the donations from the community was enough to keep you ---

TODD: Finally got it going, started, and we paid it off in a year and a half.

LORAN: But really, I think a lot of the credit goes to old man Purdy, who we bought the first one from in Portland. The salesman finally convinced him that we were a crazy bunch of so and so's that didn't have sense enough to know what the hell we was doing. I guess he hit the ceiling. And finally this fellow convinced him that we were sincere in it and he said, "If they're that god damned crazy, I'll be crazy and go along with them."

(Laughter)

BUD: That wasn't the words he used, but that was his attitude.

PAULINE: Well it probably was. Probably was, wasn't far from that.

TODD: But I'll tell you that outfit there in Portland will fall over backwards to help us out, out here.

LORAN: He didn't think that a bunch of men could do this. Or would do it. And when we finally paid it off in a year and a half, why after that, whatever we asked for we got, no question about it.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

TODD: No arguments.

PAULINE: Well can you tell me some of the things that have happened that you felt were most gratifying, that made you feel good that you were doing this service? Are there any incidents that stand out in your mind that you really ---

LORAN: No, but ---

BUD: Lots of them!

TODD: You're damn right! It makes me feel damn good every time I take out of here with a patient to get them where they're supposed to go.

BUD: And to my recollection, we have never started out of here with a patient on, that we

have ever lost. Have we?

TODD: No!

LORAN: No, not from here. But we've lost some on the road in from car accidents.

BUD: Oh yes, something like that. But we've never lost one from going to the hospital, to transfer to a hospital. Of course naturally you've got to always maintain that you can't bat a hundred percent on these automobile accidents.

PAULINE: No, no you have no way of knowing when you start out sometimes, whether they're alive or not.

TODD: Yeah. Or how bad they are. And in all the time we've been in operation, I believe we've only had two accidents. In all the years we've been running this ambulance.

PAULINE: That's pretty good, pretty good, because wasn't it about 70,000 miles every two years that you put on?

BUD: We put on about 35,000 miles a year. We've had two accidents.

LORAN: Diaz had one in Portland and Dan and Burton Blake had one.

TODD: Over this side of Bend.

LORAN: That has tied up the outfit. And we have hauled everything from a two and a half pound premature baby to a 100-year-old woman. And all ages, I think, in between.

(Laughter)

PAULINE: That's an interesting fact.

LORAN: Took a premature baby to Portland that weighed right at two and a half pounds.

PAULINE: And I imagine you're talking about Grandma Bardwell.

LORAN: That's right. We took her from the nursing home to the hospital when she was 100 years old.

BUD: The South End of the county down here has really been behind us in every way, shape, or form. Because they --- at every funeral they have, pretty near, from down in

that part of the country, why they'll buy the flowers besides making donations to the ambulance.

TODD: Yeah, I was helping Salladay one time and we took the lowering device and grass and stuff down into the valley down there. And there's one fellow down there --- we were sitting there waiting for the funeral coach to get there. There's quite a few people around. And this guy reaches in his pocket and hands me a \$10 bill and says this is a donation to the ambulance. And when I came back from down there I had over \$60 in donations from down there. Just all account of this one guy. And we never did, I don't ever remember having to haul him in the ambulance.

BUD: Well, a lot of them feels this way about them donations on that part of it. Because they never know when they might have to be.

TODD: And that was that old Jim Kessinger.

LORAN: Another thing that might be interesting, as long as you're getting into this, is when we first started there was quite an argument about what they was going to charge. It had to be a set fee or they couldn't operate. And I maintained that it wouldn't operate if it was a set fee. And finally convinced Art Campbell that this was the way it had to be as long as it was going to be a service to Harney County it had to be available to anybody in Harney County, whether they had any money or whether they didn't. Because poor people hurt just as bad as the rich ones. And Art and I swung the group into doing just that. And that's the way it was set up. And I've had many people from many towns tell me it wouldn't work. But it has worked.

TODD: There's no charge to Harney County residents.

LORAN: So they wanted to know my thinking on that, and I said in a short time, if this thing succeeds, it won't belong to the firemen, it'll belong to the people of Harney County. Because unless the people get behind it, it will defeat itself. And I said there will be

donations from this person, that person, and another person. And I said well pretty soon we'll operate it all right, but it will belong to the people of Harney County. And that's the only way it can work. And it has worked.

BUD: Yes.

TODD: Yes.

LORAN: From the time we got that first ambulance paid for until the present time, we have never been in the red on it. We've always had enough money to trade for another one.

TODD: And always, they was always paid for when we got them. LORAN: And that has been on account of the people of Harney County supporting it. It couldn't have worked any other way.

BUD: You talk about your Harney County people getting behind you on your ambulance. Here it's been several years ago when they started this certifying of the drivers and certified ambulances and things. Our Harney County people got right behind them and we got that tabled and still is as far as I know.

TODD: Some of it's tabled thank heavens.

BUD: Yeah. We had one doctor out of the medical school, Oregon Medical School up there, he was supposed to be the big shot of it, said, "Well, I don't want nobody picking me up unless I'm a certified driver and a certified ambulance." And some of our county people here wrote in and said, "Well," told him, he says, "You'd better have an awful long drop cord then and an electric blanket, because it might be a long time before you get one."

LORAN: They just don't have any idea of the distances we have here in Harney County. We can go a 150 miles from Burns and still be in Harney County.

PAULINE: This is right. And I think if I remember the figure Diaz told me correctly, he

said your average trip was 150 miles. Where it averages out, that's your average trip.

BUD: You was asking for a very distinct item on something there. There was one time, from down here at Paisley that there was supposed to have been a mercy plane come in and pick the guy up and take him to Portland. He was a veteran and he had a heart condition. So the plane, it snowed and the plane couldn't get in so they called Jim Richardson up here and wanted to know what he'd charge to take the man in. And Jim gave them a price; I don't remember just what it was. (Jim Richardson was fire chief at the time.)

TODD: \$450, because that was clear out of our territory.

BUD: Well, anyway, the woman said, "Well, that's too much." So he said, "Get one of your commercial ambulances out of Klamath then." So they called Klamath Falls for a commercial ambulance to come out, and they wouldn't even --- he said, "I won't even send my car out on these kinds of roads. In that kind of weather." So then they got a hold of the Veterans Administration and talked to them and the woman finally, they called back and said that the Veterans Administration would pay that if we would take him to Portland. And that was right during this, all this other stuff.

TODD: Right in the middle of it, when they was tryin' to get this law passed.

BUD: Jim couldn't do anything, but dispatch the ambulance down there to take that man to Portland. And we got an awful nice write-up in the Oregonian about it.

TODD: Said the Burns Ambulance was the only one in the State of Oregon equipped to --
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BUD: The volunteers ---

LORAN: I think --- that was equipped to make the trip. I think they also had contacted Bucks in Portland and the other guy in Eugene, and they wouldn't make the trip, if I remember right.

PAULINE: Well, Paisley is kind of isolated. It's a lot more isolated in some ways than a lot of areas out in here in Harney County. I've never been there, but from what I've heard

TODD: Well, you know where Valley Falls is?

PAULINE: Yeah.

TODD: Well, it's right back up the road from Valley Falls.

LORAN: Just between Valley Falls and Silver Lake.

TODD: Silver Lake, up in there.

PAULINE: Couldn't get more desolate if you tried.

LORAN: One more unusual item is that we've operated that ambulance for 18 years now and there hasn't been a baby born in it. (Laughter)

TODD: There's been one or two that was pretty damn close. (Laughter)

LORAN: Yes, but there's never been one delivered in the ambulance.

PAULINE: That's quite surprising.

LORAN: That's fantastic.

PAULINE: Yeah.

TODD: Wasn't you along with me the night we went out to the Indian Camp out here at 7 o'clock? Took old Bell Hoodie into the hospital.

BUD: Yeah, I and Dan Kincheloe went along.

TODD: And she gave birth to the baby at 7:30.

LORAN: I kinda liked Dr. Sinkey lectured us on this. He said, "One of these days one of you is going to be Dr. So and So." He said, "You can't miss." He said, "You're long overdue." And that was seven years ago. (Laughter)

PAULINE: Well stay prepared, because the day may come.

LORAN: We have had some training on it, but then thank heaven; we haven't had to use

it.

TODD: Well, I suppose if it ever comes up, why we'll get by somehow.

BUD: One other incident we had there. Art and I was headed for Portland with an Indian baby on. She was a pretty sick little girl. But as we were going through Madras, the nurse said, "You'd better step on it. The baby's got a fever of 107."

PAULINE: Oh, dear.

BUD: She started --- she had, we had some ice in there and she started packing it with ice. And as we went across, coming down into Crooked River Gorge, over Crooked River bridge, why as we came over the via-duct coming down in there, I could see quite a few congregations down there. And as we come down, why pretty soon here comes the Madras ambulance out of there. I used the siren and boy they got across that bridge. And come to find out, it was when they found them two children where they had been thrown over the bank of the Gorge.

TODD: Well, we've had a few hair-raising experiences. I and Al Hayton was taking Cliff Black's wife to Portland one night. And out there, just the other side of Madras just before you make that big curve going down into the gorge, or canyon, we was going along there, we was driving about 60 miles an hour, and we looked up there, the road before. There was a lot of traffic coming from the other way, and all at once, there was a set of taillights in front of us. All I had time to do was holler, "hang on" and anchor it. Well I slid Mrs. Black about a foot and a half up on that cart, and put Florence Davidson right up in Cliff Black's lap. And after everything got squared away and we started on and passed this car, there was nothing but a drunk Indian's squabble. They'd been parked along the road there, and backed out onto that highway without any lights or anything on, and then when she hit the brakes, why those tail lights ---

PAULINE: You'd have plowed right into them.

TODD: I don't think there was two foot from the front bumper of that Cadillac to the back end of that car when we stopped. And I couldn't turn out, and I didn't dare go to the right because I didn't know what the heck the borrow pits were. So I just anchored it.

LORAN: There was another little premature baby that weighed three pounds and a half, to Portland one time and we had one without a passageway to her stomach and she was starving to death. And they met us up there at Doernbecher and they operated on her that same evening and put in a plastic tube, and about three weeks she was back here fat and sassy. These are some of the things that I was telling you about the other day, that you shouldn't get involved with the people you haul, but I don't know how you can help it.

PAULINE: How do you get around it?

BUD: You can't.

PAULINE: I know many, many people have told me, you know, that they didn't realize what a comfort it was to have the local men and everything, to haul them, you know, until they experience it. And I've heard so many good comments about the way you handle the patients. You know, tender loving care seems to be the byword.

LORAN: Well, it's kind of like this fall when we got a call to take Ethel Johnson over to Bend. She fell and broke her hip. Young Kenny Rutherford and I went. She was on the X-ray table and you should have seen the look on her face. I've known her every since she came here, and Kenny had been going to school to her just a few years ago and she was amongst friends. And I think this has a lot to do with the people that are hurt too.

PAULINE: Yeah.

BUD: It makes a big difference, you know, to people if they know you. It's just like the one time Todd and I took Helen Long to Portland after she had her wreck down here on Foley Drive. She was all battered up and pretty much --- uh --- when we put her in the bed there at the hospital, up there in Portland, why when we started to leave she started

to crying. She didn't want us to leave her because, you know, she was afraid of being among strangers and everything. She just had that much faith in all of us. As long as we was around why it was all right.

TODD: It was just like one of the LPN's up here at the hospital. We got the call that we could go up and pick her up and bring her home. And she said she told those nurses up there that she could look for that ambulance in there about 10 o'clock. "Ah, they won't get here that quick." So we picked her daughter up and took her along, and just about 10 o'clock her daughter walked into the room up there. And I guess Donna she really went to work on those nurses then. She said, "See, I told you they'd be here at 10 o'clock. She says I know that bunch out there." Then it was Donna Tackman.

LORAN: Then another time like a car wreck up north of town here one time, when they took two of them down to Salladay (Funeral Home) and the other five up to the emergency room. They went to work on, and the ambulance drivers got in on that. So that's some of the gory side of it.

PAULINE: Yeah. I know it's not all fun and games.

LORAN: We have had wonderful cooperation from this hospital and the doctors here though.

TODD: Kind of gets one up there. For ruining our communications with the hospital.

LORAN: Here a couple of years ago my grandson was in a car wreck. Stan Bennett called up and said, "You'd better come up here to the emergency room. Your grandson --" Well, I had seven grandsons, so I didn't know which one. So I went up and went into the emergency room and identified it, and went down and told his mother. Different people afterwards asked, "Didn't they chase you out of the emergency room?" And I said, "No." We've helped all the doctors in there many a times, they're kinda glad to see us at times.

TODD: Yes, there's been lots of times when we've stayed right there and helped them out up there. When they bring those wrecks in.

LORAN: Sometimes a half an hour and sometimes it's three hours and a half.

PAULINE: Well, you've had, you've had the kind of training that really is, maybe not quite comparable to paramedic's, but it's getting close isn't it?

BUD: Well, you take the EMT is just right on the verge of it. Emergency medical training. The only thing, there is a difference actually between that is you medics, your paramedics can administer shots and things, where we can't.

LORAN: Well, your qualified EMT man can too, but we haven't gotten that far to set it up. But your EMT man are qualified to give shots under a doctor's orders.

PAULINE: Well when this new communications system that you're going to have, with communications between the ambulance, the police cars, and dispatch. This then could really become a reality. Where the doctor in Burns here could give you orders to administer.

TODD: Oh yeah. It would have to be over telephone, the way it's set up. It used to be we had a base station up there at the hospital.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LORAN: I have ... one in particular; fell 42 feet off a high line pole. And I thought he had a broken back. But that was when we had the radio up to the hospital. And I called in and got a hold of Dr. John (Weare) and I told him what I thought he had and he thought so too. But as it proved out afterwards, he didn't have. But it's sure nice when you can talk to a doctor when you're in an ambulance, because of the fact that you're not doctors, and you're just limited, doing the best you can.

TODD: But since Doc White got into being County Commissioner, he got that radio station, all the radios moved down to the police station.

LORAN: Well, in a way this is good too, because there is somebody mans that 24 hours a day.

TODD: And the only difference is that you have to talk to the doctor over a telephone from the police station. And they can still talk to the ambulance. Or otherwise, lots of times two men went out on an ambulance, nobody showed up at the hospital. You were stymied for communications there too.

LORAN: Generally when that base station was up there, when the ambulance went out on a call, why there was a third one called, he went to the hospital and got on that station.

BUD: ... and we got the two ambulances, lots of times there was a problem of getting four drivers. And it would be more of a problem to get the fifth man, where it used to be to just get the three of them. It has its good points and its bad.

TODD: Yeah, that's right.

LORAN: But as far as I'm concerned, maybe I can help some of the people of the community and if I do, I think maybe it's worthwhile.

BUD: Yeah, that's my idea. My idea, it's been that way every since they started this thing.

LORAN: To help somebody that's suffering and get them to where they can get proper care, and sometimes just a shoulder to cry on helps. I have in mind a fellow I took to Portland and I knew he was bad, he pretty near passed away on us in Sandy. And we got into Portland late at night. And these people, I didn't know. But anyhow, the doctor came over there, a cancer specialist, and he came over and examined the man and wanted to see her after it was all over. And we went in to see him. He wanted to tell us good-bye, and so on and so forth. And when we got to the elevator button, why the doctor told her he had six weeks at the most to live, and she broke down. And I say, once in awhile it's nice to have a shoulder to cry on. They were complete strangers to us.

TODD: Well, it's just like that time you and I took that little boy over to Ontario that got burnt.

LORAN: He was burnt so bad.

TODD: Yeah. He didn't want to get off the cart after we got over there.

LORAN: He was thrilled that an honest-to-god fireman and an ambulance was hauling him to Ontario. The little devil was burned so bad that I didn't think he'd ever live. We never heard from him since. I don't know whether he made it or not.

BUD: And there's been several, out-of-state or out-of-county patients that we've hauled that have sent awful nice letters back.

PAULINE: Well you see them in the Times-Herald every so often. There will be a letter from someone out of state that was hauled in from an auto wreck or something.

LORAN: I think the longest trip that's been made was to Oakland, California.

TODD: Yeah, I think so.

BUD: With a patient.

LORAN: Well, let's see.

TODD: Well not long ago there was one made up to Aberdeen, Washington. Oakland was I think about the farthest.

LORAN: That's about 600 and some miles. And once in awhile, you'll get an ambulance call that somebody has passed out down at the Elkhorn or the Palace. And it's somebody that's had a little too much to drink, and they come to about the time you get up to the hospital and they give you a bad time. (Laughter) But you have to go, because you don't know whether they're sick, or a heart attack or just plain had too much to drink.

TODD: Like the time we went to Juntura. We went over there and it was an Indian and he was passed out. And we loaded him up and brought him back to Burns and got him up to the hospital. And the doctors examined him. Told him nothing wrong with him, but

he was just passed out from being drunk. And they said put him to bed, and then call the police. Boy, that Indian snapped out of it right now. Bring him down and put him to bed and when he slid off that cart, he doggone near slid clear across the floor. He sure snapped out of it when they said call the police.

PAULINE: Sobered him right up?

TODD: Right now too.

LORAN: Lots of times somebody will call an ambulance, and you'll go down to the house and people will come out mad, "We didn't call no ambulance." So you thank them and go back home again.

PAULINE: Do you suspect pranks, or do you suspect somebody just got alarmed and changed their minds?

LORAN: A lot of times it's family squabbles.

PAULINE: Yeah.

TODD: Like one night we got a call. That big ambulance was out of town. And we had that '55 Chevy and it had a red light on the front of it. Got a call out at the Antlers Club. Well, we figured they'd had a big battle out there and somebody got hurt. We got out there why the state police followed us right out. We got out there and it was nothing but a guy wanted transportation back to town.

PAULINE: Oh, no! I imagine he rode back in the police car.

TODD: Yeah, that's all he wanted. He was about to get the devil beat out of him as it was. Yeah he wanted to get out of there because the only way he could get out was to call the ambulance.

BUD: Yeah, and the first few years that we had, we only had the one ambulance here, why a lot of us that had station wagons why we'd use them as an auxiliary ---

PAULINE: Yeah. For some of the local ---

TODD: Stand by, when the big rig was out of town. When the only rig was out of town.

LORAN: I've hauled several in my station wagon and I know you boys have ...

BUD: I've hauled a lot of them in mine.

TODD: And Dan Kincheloe did too.

LORAN: Yeah. There's always some way if there's men that wants to do it.

BUD: Well, we've had a lot of fun at it, and a lot of rough times.

PAULINE: I can imagine getting out to the Antlers to find out that somebody was just looking for a ride, wouldn't fit too good in the middle of the night.

TODD: Yeah, along about eleven o'clock.

LORAN: It don't make any difference what time the calls come, you go.

BUD: Well, a person could go on, and on, and on. Have all kinds of experiences driving an ambulance, I tell you.

PAULINE: Now this helicopter arrangement from ---

TODD: Mountain Home Air Base.

PAULINE: From the air base. That's really going to be a ---

BUD: ...

TODD: ...

LORAN: Yeah, it's a godsend.

BUD: Even before that they had a helicopter arrangement from Salem on premature babies that we've used a time or two.

PAULINE: Yeah, a couple picked up last summer. Didn't that helicopter from Salem come in?

LORAN: People that was traveling through, stopped at the hospital, the wife had a premature baby and they sent for the helicopter out of Salem. We took the baby up to the airport. They done whatever they had to do in our ambulance, transferred it to their

incubator and put it on the helicopter and away they went. By the way, that baby made it all right. I finally heard this summer.

PAULINE: Well is it, can they land up here at the hospital?

TODD: Yes.

LORAN: I would imagine they could.

TODD: Yes, they can if they want to.

LORAN: The helicopters working for the forest service has landed up there a couple times.

PAULINE: The reason I wondered, was I thought the other day that someone said they, there was a mix-up, they thought they were going to come in at the airport, and they landed --- did that happen, or did somebody imagining things?

TODD: I think one of the army; I think it lands out at the airport. I don't think it could land -
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LORAN: It could by blocking off the highway.

TODD: They have to block the highway anyway. They have to block that street anyway when that little one lands.

LORAN: That big one could land in there too, as far as that goes. TODD: But the army don't think it's feasible, only just a short hop out to the airport, in an ambulance.

BUD: Especially when we have two ambulances.

LORAN: I've talked to people in Ontario and their population is much greater than ours and they said they couldn't get volunteers enough down there to man that. They didn't see how Burns could. But the thing simmers down; they don't have people enough that's willing to devote their time to it. Well, the people in Burns don't know any better I guess.

TODD: Well they are just more, well what would you say, more determined to see it go.

LORAN: That's right.

TODD: And all the boys that's on the Fire Department are devoted to it.

PAULINE: Well that's evident. The fact that you have forty trained, forty drivers with EMT cards. That takes a little bit of a training to get that card now.

LORAN: They don't have, some of the newer men don't have that. But then they're setting up another EMT course, which will start, I seen Diaz today, but he didn't say when.

TODD: I thought it was supposed to start sometime the latter part of this month.

LORAN: He said he'd been meeting with Doctor Campbell and somebody from the Board of Health in getting this training course set up.

TODD: It was either the latter part of this month, or right after the first of the year.

LORAN: It was supposed to start in December, but I don't know what they came up with today. So in the near future anyhow, all forty will be, have this EMT training. Of course, we've had advanced first aid, I don't know how many times. And a couple winters the doctors took turns coming down once a month and lecturing us on one particular phase or the other, like heart attacks, or strokes, or broken bones. One was even on delivering babies. And, you know, the various phases that we would run into. So we have had training above advanced first aid before this EMT course was instituted.

BUD: And Doc Campbell gave us that.

TODD: I think he is going to give the next one.

BUD: Probably will.

PAULINE: That's what Diaz said the other day.

LORAN: Yeah, I seen him down at the Elks a few minutes ago. And he said he had been meeting with some member from the State Board of Health, and Doctor Campbell getting it set up. So in the near future, all forty of them will have this training.

TODD: Going back to that where the doctors came down to lecture us on different parts, different things like Loran was talking about, they'd also bring moving pictures of it.

LORAN: Yeah, a lot of them did.

TODD: Dr. Sinkey brought it in, one time when he give us a lecture on the birth of a baby. He had actual photograph, film, moving picture, film of that, of the birth of a child.

LORAN: Broken legs and broken bones! If I remember right Dr. Morrison gave us that. And he had chests, which were caved in, and different fractures that we might run into and how to take care of them and how to transport them. And how to handle them with the least amount of pain.

PAULINE: It would be much easier to recognize these things too if you'd seen an actual film of it, rather than read about it in a book.

LORAN: That's right. It takes a lot of study and a lot of listening and a lot of experience along with it, Pauline.

TODD: Yeah, there was, just more or less a training film, actually.

LORAN: The thing that bothers me when I get to a car wreck or a person that's had a heart attack or stroke is that I'm not a doctor and you don't know for sure just what you should do. So you are limited to do the best you can. I think we do have credit for saving several lives, since we've started. That's what it was set up for. And we do have one of the better-equipped ambulances in the state.

BUD: One time when they, one of the first aid instructor, Red Cross First Aid instructors was in town he wanted to look over the ambulance one time to see how it was equipped. And he made the statement that it wasn't one of the best equipped, it was THE BEST equipped ambulance in the State of Oregon.

LORAN: Yeah, but in the last several years, there is several ambulances in the state now that's equipped with the heart-monitoring machine.

TODD: Well yeah, but at that time it ---

LORAN: But at that time it wasn't. But they are now. That's why I said it was one of the

best. But that unit costs about \$4,000. And I don't know just how much the receiving unit for the hospital costs, but it costs quite a bundle too. Sooner or later, I expect, we'll have one of them.

PAULINE: Well I know Dr. John (Weare) is particularly interested in heart disease, and worked real hard along these lines. He was telling me the other day that those four heart monitors up there at the hospital had cut the mortality rate from coronaries by 50 percent. So you can imagine that if you had that in the ambulance so that you could, so that the doctor could begin treatment even that much sooner.

LORAN: Well, the way they're equipped, Pauline, you have a unit in your ambulance, and the hospital has a receiving unit. And one of the better units there you can put this onto a person and it runs a continuous EKG on his heart, and it transmits it to the hospital so the doctor at the hospital can read just what's happening. And he can tell you just what to do. Which would I suppose, they would be instrumental in saving a few lives here. In the big cities it is instrumental in saving lots of lives, because they can get to it faster.

PAULINE: In some cases you're actually, in time, you're closer to the hospital fifty miles out here than you would be down town Portland for instance, with traffic and one thing or another. It could take you longer to get a patient to the hospital in the big city than here.

LORAN: No, I kind of disagree with that.

PAULINE: Do you?

LORAN: Well the hospitals are strategically located in Portland in pretty near all four corners. So no matter where you were you would have --- if they designated a certain hospital, it might. But you take them to the closest hospital, it shouldn't take too long. Where here, if you're fifty miles out it takes you X number of minutes, it don't make no difference how you cut it.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LORAN: But our problem on that is, you say a person down at Diamond, or Fields, or Andrews has a heart attack or something like that. It takes us an hour and a half at least, maybe two hours to get down there. Well, if he's alive when we get down there, maybe we can get him back to the hospital alive. But you don't have time. In a lot of those things, are just a matter of minutes, so you can't possibly get there. So I don't know. But as a group, I think all of them do the very best they can. And that's about all they can do.

PAULINE: Well, I sure thank you for taking time to talk about this a little bit. I think, you know, like maybe a hundred years from now when somebody at the library goes stumbling through the files, they might come across this conversation and know what it was like now.

LORAN: There was three people lived here years and years ago. (Laughter)

PAULINE: Yeah.

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