

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #104 - Side A/B

Subject: Martina Larraneta

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: September 3, 1976

Interviewers: Royal G. Jackson & Jennifer A. Lee

Release Form: located at Oregon State University

(Note: The preparation of this document was financed in part by the Oregon State University Research Council, and the Harney County Oral History Program.)

ROYAL JACKSON: What is your first name please?

MARTINA LARRANETA: Martina. Martina Larraneta.

ROYAL: What year were you born?

MARTINA: 1901.

ROYAL: 75 years young?

MARTINA: Uh huh.

ROYAL: And you were born in Spain?

MARTINA: Spain.

ROYAL: You were born in 1901 and lived in Spain for how long?

MARTINA: Until I was 16, when I came to this country.

ROYAL: What province did you come from?

MARTINA: Navarra.

ROYAL: That's the biggest province of the Basque Provinces?

MARTINA: Yeah. That's where I lived in a little village.

ROYAL: Do you speak Basque?

MARTINA: Yeah.

ROYAL: You are Basque?

MARTINA: Yes.

ROYAL: Your maiden name was Ramirez?

MARTINA: My first name before I was married was Subidi. See when I was married, they change the name to Ramirez, but in Spain they don't change it.

ROYAL: Oh, I see.

MARTINA: They change it over here when you marry somebody, but for the first time it was Ramirez.

ROYAL: So, the town you came from most of the people spoke Basque, unlike your husband?

MARTINA: Yeah. And I was Subidi before I was married, then when I married, I was Ramirez, and then when I was married with him, Larraneta.

ROYAL: Oh, I see, you have three names then?

MARTINA: Three names, yeah.

ROYAL: What did your parents do in Spain?

MARTINA: What you call it, farm.

ROYAL: Farmers?

MARTINA: Farmers, yeah. That's all the business over there, the little villages, you know. You grow everything over there, you know, potatoes, and vegetables, that's what they was, farmers.

ROYAL: So as a young girl you worked on a farm?

MARTINA: Yeah.

ROYAL: With your parents?

MARTINA: Yeah. When I come here in 1905, I came to California.

ROYAL: Why did you decide to come to the United States?

MARTINA: Well, I got a sister over there, and she wanted me to come.

ROYAL: Where was she?

MARTINA: She was in San Francisco.

ROYAL: Why did she come to the United States?

MARTINA: Well, she come over here because, you know, we got awful poor life over there, you know, and then we want to come see if it is better over here.

ROYAL: So, a lot of young people left because it was hard to farm?

MARTINA: Hard to farm, yeah, you know, want to get out, and she came over here, and that's why I came to San Francisco, see. She bring me over here from over there, so I can help her, see. She got a little business, you know; give you board and that and other.

ROYAL: Like a hotel, you mean?

MARTINA: Like a hotel, yeah.

ROYAL: Was it a Basque hotel?

MARTINA: Basque hotel, no really Basque hotel there was I don't know if you have seen some of those playing ball, hand balls, what you call them like a ...

ROYAL: Like the Italians?

MARTINA: You know, they hit on the ball.

ROYAL: Fronto'n?

MARTINA: Fronto'n, yeah.

ROYAL: In Mexico they call it fronto'n.

MARTINA: Yeah.

ROYAL: Jai alai really, or Pelota.

MARTINA: Pelota, yeah, that's what she had. She bring me over here so I can help her.

ROYAL: She had a court where they played? Cancha?

MARTINA: Cancha, yeah. They call them cancha over there in San Francisco. And then she bring me for help her, see, and when I came in the boat, they stopped me in New York, see, and they asked me what I was coming for. I told them it must be the paper. I got all the paper. They stopped me in New York over there. They told me what for I coming, and I can't understand it and I stay over there, I don't know if I stay a week or I stay 3 or 4 days, I don't know. I don't talk nobody. I see quite a few people, you know, everyplace, you know. I told them so they bring in this fellow

Aquirre.

ROYAL: I've heard it before. Valentin Aguirre.

MARTINA: He came over there, and he asked me where I was from and what I was doing, and who I got in California, and everything else, and I told him. So, must be the papers, and I suppose to come over here, and go to school, no helping my sister, see, and that's why they stop me over there. So, I stay over there a few days.

JENNIFER LEE: You came alone then?

MARTINA: Yeah. I got a one or two in my town, but they stop me, and everybody else come ahead. And I was all by myself.

ROYAL: Weren't you frightened to come away from your home to a place unknown?

MARTINA: No, I no was frightened. And they stop me over there, and they telegram to my sister, see, and they get everything fixed up. I stay over there a few days and they let me come, see.

ROYAL: Well, did Valentin Aguirre, help you?

MARTINA: Yeah.

ROYAL: Get the documents straightened out?

MARTIN: Yes. I talk Spanish with him, and he asked me about it, see, I told him I got my sister, and I was going to help her there. When he fixed those papers; he send the telegram to my sister, see.

ROYAL: Before we leave the trip, did you come by boat across from Spain?

MARTINA: Yeah.

ROYAL: Where did you leave from? What city in Spain?

MARTINA: I guess I sail from Pamplona.

ROYAL: From Pamplona?

MARTINA: I think to Barcelona, I guess.

ROYAL: Did you stop in France, then or did you go straight across?

MARTINA: No, I think it stop in France some place, I don't know where, but in France or some place.

ROYAL: How long did your trip take?

MARTINA: I don't know. Quite a long time. Maybe one month, come so slow.

JENNIFER: Did your sister pay for your passage over?

MARTINA: Yes.

JENNIFER: Had she come alone herself?

MARTINA: Well, when she come, yeah. She come alone. She came out ahead of me, see, she was married, and she got two kids over there.

ROYAL: Was she married to a Basque?

MARTINA: Yeah, Basco from Vizcaya.

ROYAL: From Vizcaya?

MARTINA: Yeah, she married a Basque, yeah.

ROYAL: So, you got to New York, had some problems with your documents?

MARTINA: Yeah.

ROYAL: Got that straightened out with the help of the travel agent Valentin Aguirre, and then Aguirre got you a train ticket?

MARTINA: Yeah, he put me in the train.

ROYAL: And put you on the train. You didn't speak any English?

MARTINA: No, nothing, not a word about English.

ROYAL: How did you ask for things? How did you tell the conductor?

MARTINA: Well, they was all right, you know, they had this paper, and they transferred me from one train to the other, see. Then I figured it take me about five days and five nights from New York to San Francisco. So slow, slow.

ROYAL: What cities did you pass through? Do you remember?

MARTINA: I don't know, no I don't remember.

ROYAL: So, what year was that?

MARTINA: 1916.

ROYAL: You arrive in San Francisco then?

MARTINA: In 1916 in December, I don't know what day, anyway, was in December 1916.

ROYAL: Did your sister meet you at the train?

MARTINA: Yeah, they meet me over there, I come in close to Oakland, and then I cross the bay to San Francisco, and they meet me there.

JENNIFER: Didn't you get homesick for your parents?

MARTINA: Oh, I don't care, no.

ROYAL: Basques are really independent, aren't they?

MARTINA: Yeah, I was.

ROYAL: You were only 16?

MARTINA: Yeah, I was 16. And then when I came to over there, they check me every month to see I go to school, see. Then I got to school, I don't know for sure maybe three or four months, I went to school to the nuns in San Francisco. Every month they come and see if I go or not, because that's why they fixed the papers by Aquirre.

ROYAL: Who came to check on you? Immigration officials?

MARTINA: Yeah, immigration, yeah.

ROYAL: Because they said you had to be going to school?

MARTINA: Yeah, I had to be going. They forced me to go to school.

ROYAL: Could you work?

MARTINA: Well, I helped my sister work in the house, you know, after school.

ROYAL: What about working in the cancha.

MARTINA: Cancha she got a boarders and I helping her fix the table, and taking care of kids, two small kids.

JENNIFER: Did they know how to speak Spanish in the school you went to?

MARTINA: No, no, no, no, no.

ROYAL: How did you know what the lessons were about?

MARTINA: Well, they told me what it is, that's a house, and that's a flower, and that's a man, and that's clothes, you see. Oh, I got the awfulest time. I came home and my sister and brother-in-law

and kids talk Spanish, talk Spanish all the time, and everything I learn I forget, see.

ROYAL: What were your impressions of American when you came here? Was it about what you expected?

MARTINA: Oh, I don't know. I liked it.

ROYAL: But did you have any idea before you came about what it would be like?

MARTINA: No, no. So, everything okay.

ROYAL: So, everything's okay?

MARTINA: Yeah, I like it and everything; it was just like a home, my sister.

ROYAL: How long did you work there with your sister then?

MARTINA: I came 1916, and I worked until 1920.

ROYAL: Four years there?

MARTINA: Four years there.

ROYAL: Did you meet a lot of young men?

MARTINA: Oh yeah, a lot of people in the Cancha, lots of people, boarders. You know, in those years there were a lot of men who go on the ship. There were no planes, no trains, no nothing. Take transportation one place to another. Lots of the Basque people work in the ships. Yes. There were some who went to Canada, some went to every port. There were a lot of Basques.

ROYAL: So, they would come to the hotel?

MARTINA: Yes, they would come to the hotel, and they got a free drinks, and play Pelota. They enjoy themselves.

ROYAL: Have you been back to that hotel since you left?

MARTINA: Oh, yeah.

ROYAL: Is it still there?

MARTINA: Oh, no. That was a long time ago. She sold the place then. She sold the place; I don't know what year. Both my parents, my sister and my brother have died now, you see. They got a son and a daughter, and then they moved from San Francisco to Oakland. That's where they lived my niece and nephew.

ROYAL: How did you like life in San Francisco?

MARTINA: I like it very much.

ROYAL: What are your recollections as a young girl there? What do you remember now?

MARTINA: I don't know. I liked it over there, and I meet a lot of people and that is all. In 1920, I was married here.

ROYAL: Someone you met there?

MARTINA: Yeah, Ramirez. He was from Spain.

ROYAL: He was a Basco too?

MARTINA: Yeah. Well, he came from Basco places, but he don't talk Basco like Mike, see. He from the same place, Navarra just like Mike. He don't talk Basco either. His name was Martin Ramirez. And he got sheeps.

ROYAL: Where was he working when you met him?

MARTINA: He was working sheeps in the Steens Mountain.

ROYAL: He didn't have sheep in the Steens Mountain when you met him, did he?

MARTINA: Yeah.

ROYAL: What was he doing in San Francisco?

MARTINA: He come over to visit and that's all. I meet him over there.

ROYAL: Did he have some relatives over there?

MARTINA: No. I tell you, long time ago, the people go over there, and they go with somebody who will interpret for them, when they go to the dentist or to the doctor. He came over there, and he want to make work for dentist. That is how I met him. He stayed there a month. My brother-in-law helped him.

ROYAL: So, you were 20 years old then?

MARTINA: Yeah, and I meet him. And he come back here and then we meet each other.

ROYAL: So, he left and came back to the Steens, and then he came back later?

MARTINA: Yeah, later he came back, and I marry. I marry him in 1920, in October 1920.

ROYAL: You didn't know him very long?



MARTINA: No. He came here once in awhile, and we write letters back and forth.

ROYAL: Did you get married in San Francisco?

MARTINA: Yes. I married in San Francisco in October. Then I came back to Oregon in spring, in March. Pretty soon he had his sheeps and he started lambing time in April. We came back.

ROYAL: So, you came back with him?

MARTINA: Yes.

ROYAL: Did you live with him in the Steens?

MARTINA: Well, he has sheep in the Steens, and I live in Narrows.

ROYAL: In the town of Narrows?

MARTINA: Yes. I lived in Narrows until almost 1925.

ROYAL: From 1920 to 1925?

MARTINA: Yes.

ROYAL: Was your husband there with you, or was he mostly on the mountain?

MARTINA: Most of the time in the mountains. Back and forth. We got a home in there.

ROYAL: What do you remember about life at the Narrows? Was it a pretty good place to live?

MARTINA: Yes. It was pretty good. It was quite a town. There were hotels and school, and garage, and a grocery store.

ROYAL: Do you remember the Haines Store that was there? C. A. Haines?

MARTINA: Maybe, I don't know. There was a nice grocery store there. He used to come from the Steens Mountain for groceries, back and forth.

ROYAL: So, your husband came in how often?

MARTINA: He stay most of the time. Well, about once or twice.

ROYAL: He came to buy groceries at the Narrows?

MARTINA: Yes.

ROYAL: Was any of your children born yet?

MARTINA: Well, one was born in Narrows, and the oldest one born in Crane. You know where Crane is?

ROYAL: Yes.

MARTINA: It was a pretty nice town when I came into Crane. When I was in Narrows, I don't know anybody, and I don't speak much English and I was going to have the first one, the boy. I wanted to go to Crane because I got friends in Crane, instead of coming here. So, I went there and my boy Elias was born in Crane.

ROYAL: Were there some Bascos in Crane?

MARTINA: Yes, quite a few shepherders and Bascos down there in Crane.

ROYAL: Did they come there to send their sheep on the railroad?

MARTINA: Yeah, and they shearing sheep there, and they shipping the lambs, the wool. It was quite a town, Crane. After that I went to Boise. Seventeen months difference between the boy and the other girl. My girl was born in Narrows. I got one of those doctor women, midwife.

ROYAL: So how many children do you have in all?

MARTINA: Five.

ROYAL: So, you had 2 of them when you were in Narrows?

MARTINA: Yeah. And then in 1925, I came to Burns.

ROYAL: Why did you do that?

MARTINA: Because we wanted a better town, and he sold the sheep. We didn't have any more sheep. We came here to Burns, we run the hotel.

ROYAL: Which one is that?

MARTINA: The Commercial Hotel.

JENNIFER: Why did he sell his sheep?

MARTINA: Well, I don't know. I guess those were pretty bad years.

ROYAL: That was in 1925?

MARTINA: Yeah. He lose most of them. Pretty bad year, can't make it.

JENNIFER: Do you remember a lot of controversy between the cattlemen and the shepherders?

MARTINA: Yeah. I don't know about the cattlemen, but I know about the shepherders. Take away the sheeps and they can't make it in bad years.

ROYAL: In those years, were there a lot of Bascos herding sheep?

MARTINA: Yeah, lot of Bascos.

ROYAL: Most of them were in the mountain, and didn't come to town?

MARTINA: Yeah.

ROYAL: Did their wives usually live in town? Was that the pattern, or did their wife ---

MARTINA: Well, most of them were bachelors. Never was been married. Some of them was married. There was a Frenchman who was married. Another one was Irish, he was married. They got a sheeps too, at this place over here.

ROYAL: Wasn't that a very lonely life for a bachelor?

MARTINA: Yes. No girls don't see nobody, you don't see nobody years and years.

ROYAL: So, did a lot of them go back to Spain to get wives, or where did they find wives?

MARTINA: Well, I don't know. Some of them they married, some still bachelors, I don't know. Some of them pass away. Some stay all their lives, awfully miserable herding sheep. Some of them go back to Spain after many years of making money, very few. Most of them stay here.

ROYAL: How was Burns in 1925? What do you remember about it? What kind of town was it?

MARTINA: In 1925, not very much.

ROYAL: No. No nothing, no mill, no nothing. The people that used to live here were just ranchers, that's all.

ROYAL: It was a very small town?

MARTINA: Yes. Very small town just ranchers and sheeps.

ROYAL: Were the streets paved? Dirt streets?

MARTINA: No. I wish I had some of those pictures. No streets paved. No water, no nothing.

ROYAL: Everybody had to have a well?

MARTINA: Yeah. I remember Burns Hotel, and no post office, just a few things. There were sidewalks. Awfully poor town. The mill come in 1929. I remember no Hines over there, nothing, just sagebrush --- clean sagebrush. That's where they make this town.

ROYAL: When you came to Burns, you had 2 children? You started running the Commercial

Hotel?

MARTINA: Yes.

ROYAL: Did you buy the hotel?

MARTINA: No, we owned it, we built it.

ROYAL: Is that hotel still standing?

MARTINA: Yes, it is still there. I live over there 20 years.

ROYAL: You operated the hotel for 20 years?

MARTINA: Yeah.

ROYAL: And you had the hotel built?

MARTINA: Yeah. We built it.

ROYAL: How many rooms were there?

MARTINA: About 20 rooms.

ROYAL: Was that mostly a Basco hotel, or did other people come too?

MARTINA: Well, they're all kinds of people, Bascos and Americans.

ROYAL: Were these Bascos mainly sheepherders that would come to town that needed a place to stay?

MARTINA: Yeah.

ROYAL: Were there a lot of parties, or lot of occasions when you drank and danced?

MARTINA: Yeah, they like to have a good time.

ROYAL: You had a bar and a dance hall?

MARTINA: Yes.

ROYAL: Your daughter was saying that you were the first Basco to come to Burns. That was in 1925?

MARTINA: Yeah, 1925.

ROYAL: There were no other Bascos in Burns then?

MARTINA: No, well there a few bachelors herding sheep, but no married men or business.

ROYAL: So, when you opened the hotel, you got all the Basco business.

MARTINA: No, not all. Very few come from up in the hills. They come only for a few days, and they don't come very often. Pretty soon, somebody else comes there, were more hotels, and the Bascos would go over there because they spoke Basque more than I do.

ROYAL: You mean another Basque hotel came?

MARTINA: Oh yeah, they come.

ROYAL: What was the name of it?

MARTINA: Well, at that time, it was the Star Hotel. But they don't give the boarders nothing, just the rooms. And I ran the Commercial for 20 years, and then pretty soon, we split up. We sold the hotel.

ROYAL: You and your husband separated?

MARTINA: Yeah.

ROYAL: How was life in those days? What do you remember from those 20 years running the hotel and about Burns?

MARTINA: You couldn't hardly do anything. It was pretty sad. In those years, there was the prohibition. They sell moonshine. When we ran the hotel, someone else came with hotel and try to make a few dollars selling the moonshine. It was awful bad, we couldn't make enough.

ROYAL: Everybody was selling moonshine, weren't they? That was very common?

MARTINA: Yeah.

ROYAL: Did you sell a little moonshine then?

MARTINA: Well, we tried, but not very much.

ROYAL: Did you make moonshine there?

MARTINA: No. Come from somebody else. They watch you like a hawk, see where you selling, where you do anything. We sell it. Prohibition was pretty hard. We sell it all right.

ROYAL: A lot of people sold it, didn't they? Prohibition wasn't very successful?

MARTINA: Yeah. So that's the way we lived.

ROYAL: Do you remember more Basque families then than now, or how is it, relatively speaking? Are there a lot of Basque families now in Burns compared to then?

MARTINA: Oh yeah, there are lots of them. Now there are a lot of Basque people here that work in the sawmill. No hotels now. Well, there are 2 hotels, Plaza and Star Hotel.

ROYAL: Weren't there four hotels, Star, Plaza, Commercial and ---

MARTINA: No, Commercial only is a hotel, but they don't give you no rooms, no nothing. They change hands now. American people owned it. A couple of years ago there was a couple, he was Basco, she no was. They ran it until last fall and then they sold it, and then another couple buy the Commercial. It's not a hotel anymore, no rooms.

ROYAL: In town now, which hotels are Basco hotels?

MARTINA: The Plaza, the Central, and the Star hotels.

ROYAL: Those three continue operating and they are mostly Basque?

MARTINA: Yes. This Plaza is the one that gives you something to eat or drink. But the other ones they don't do it. This Central Hotel, they just got rooms for rent. She is Basque. That's all there is now.

ROYAL: Where are the Basques that are coming into Burns now; are they still coming? Are new Basques coming in now, young ones?

MARTINA: Well, I don't know. Some of them come, but once they come, they work in the sawmill now. They don't go into the sheep like they used to because there are no sheeps anymore. Most work in the mill.

ROYAL: There are a few young Basques that are still coming to Burns from Spain, though?

MARTINA: Yeah, very few.

JENNIFER: You didn't teach your children Basque at all, or teach them the dances or keep up the culture?

MARTINA: No. I teach them Spanish, but they don't learn the dances. We used to dance the La Jota.

ROYAL: Whatever your children learned, you didn't directly teach them anymore than the Basques that you knew would have a party and they would learn how to dance?

MARTINA: Yes.

ROYAL: You didn't try to teach them Basque?

MARTINA: No, no, no I don't try to teach Basque. I try to teach Spanish but no Basque. I talk Basque, but I try to teach Spanish. Like I say, my boy and the other daughter they talk Spanish.

JENNIFER: You are Catholic, aren't you?

MARTINA: Yeah.

JENNIFER: Did the Basques have their own church in Burns at all, or did they just go to the Catholic Church?

MARTINA: No, they just went to the Catholic Church. Basque and Americans.

JENNIFER: Did you ever go back to Spain? The only time was with your daughter in 1952?

MARTINA: No. Yes, that was first time.

JENNIFER: Didn't you get homesick for your parents and the homeland?

MARTINA: No, it was awfully poor life there. When I went over there, my father was there. My mother died when I was real young. My father and my one sister are the only relatives I have. I have nephews and nieces in Spain. That's all the relatives I have. I went over in 1952. She went, she knows how it is. Really small towns over there.

ROYAL: At that time, you wouldn't have wanted to return?

MARTINA: No. I tell you, when I was over here in Narrows, and my husband got sheeps I went to California. When I got those 2 little kids, and my boy was 20 months old, and the little girl was 3 months old, we started in Narrows. It was in the springtime, in March, and I wanted so badly to go to California to see my sister. I haven't seen her for a long time. And my sister she wanted to go to Spain with her husband and 2 kids. So, she wanted me to run their place when she went in 1923. So, I went over there, and I stayed with this fellow in the store in the Narrows. He say, "Oh, you go in nice weather, nice weather!" In those times the roads were so bad, so rough. "Okay, let's go." So my brother-in-law drive us. It started to storming and by god ---

SIDE B

ROYAL: So you left the Narrows in an old Model-A?

MARTINA: Yes.

ROYAL: The weather became very bad?

MARTINA: Yeah, pretty bad.

ROYAL: And then what happened?

MARTINA: Well, we stopped in a small town they called Plush. We stopped over there and stayed overnight. They told us we can't go to Lakeview because of foul weather. We don't know what to do. My brother-in-law was going to drive halfway so he went back in the car. We can make it with the car, no further. So, we stopped over there. They told us; you can't go with storms like this. The only thing that can go are the horses. What are we going to do? We don't come back; we were on those wagons, those four horses. Me and two little kids. We started in the morning. I don't know what time it was. Then we went to Lakeview. All day long, I thought we would never reach. We stayed there and we stayed in a hotel and took the train the next morning to San Francisco. The train from Lakeview to San Francisco. Then I went to see my sister and I stayed there for 3 months. She went to Spain. And I stayed for 3 months until August. I come back in August to Narrows. That was 1923.

ROYAL: Were you sorry to leave California, would you rather have lived there?

MARTINA: Yes. I was sorry; I never come back in the first place. We lived in Narrows until 1925. We come to Burns in 1925.

ROYAL: So, your other 3 children were born here?

MARTINA: Yes.

ROYAL: You became Mrs. Larraneta in 1952?

MARTINA: 1952, yes. 1952, we went to Spain and after we come back in the fall we marry.

ROYAL: And then what did you do after that, did you continue operating the hotel?

MARTINA: Oh no. Before I was married, I give up the hotel.

ROYAL: What year was that?

MARTINA: 1941 or '42.

ROYAL: Did you sell the hotel?



MARTINA: No, I gave to him. I got divorced. Then I rented a small house over here, and we lived over here.

JENNIFER: What were your impressions when you went back in 1952?

MARTINA: I know what it was before she went, but she can pick it up to see if life was miserable.

ROYAL: Everyone was very poor?

DAUGHTER: Yes, our relatives were quite poor, compared to the way we lived. I was shocked to see the stone buildings that they lived in. The animals live in the bottom. They live in the upper quarters. Kind of smelly, and sanitary-wise, very poor.

ROYAL: Just had outhouses, no plumbing?

DAUGHTER: They didn't have that. You shared it with the animals downstairs. There wasn't any great disease or anything which kind of amazes me. And they were really hard workers. They get up early in the morning and work all day in the fields. But I never ate so well in my life, I don't think as I did there.

ROYAL: How old were you when you were there?

DAUGHTER: 22. Their foods were just fabulous. They seemed to have plenty to eat. What they grew, I guess. They had good food out there in those little villages. Some had running water, and if they had running water, it was a luxury. Some had ovens that were brick in the wall. Little things like that we take for granted. Its luxuries for them. I took our niece a radio, table radio for a wedding gift. They thought we gave her a pot of gold.

ROYAL: When did you come back then?

DAUGHTER: We were there 3 months, so we came back the same year.

JENNIFER: You were very happy to come back to the United Sates?

DAUGHTER: Yes, I was.

ROYAL: You stayed with the relatives there again?

DAUGHTER: Most --- yeah, in the village in Pamplona, we stayed in a boarding house.

JENNIFER: Mostly small towns?

DAUGHTER: Yes, that's where all of our relatives live.

ROYAL: Outside Pamplona?

DAUGHTER: Yeah, up in the hills.

JENNIFER: They were farmers and shepherders?

DAUGHTER: Farmers, I guess. The country is beautiful. We took a lots of excursions to see sites. We went to San Sebastian, and we went to Bilbao. I have two cousins that are nuns.

JENNIFER: Have you been back there since then?

DAUGHTER: No, I'd like to go back, but I guess it's changed so much. Become so commercialized now.

ROYAL: Would you want your children to go there?

DAUGHTER: Oh sure, I would advise anybody to go there.

ROYAL: I mean as far as discovering their Basque roots --- oh you say your children are adopted?

DAUGHTER: Yeah, but still, I would want them to see it. They were brought up in the Basque environment.

ROYAL: How do you feel about the continuation of the Basques in Burns, or in America in general? Is that something that requires constant care to be sure that the Basque language is maintained, and the culture and the traditions? Or do you think the kids are now forgetting all that?

MARTINA: Well, it looks like they forgot all about it, I think.

ROYAL: They don't seem to pay much attention to the old dances and things?

MARTINA: No, no. They change everything. Like those people they went last year. My nephew went last year to Spain. Mike's nephew and four kids. Mike's brother lives over there. Oh, they said they changed everything over there. Don't look like the same, more modern and the kids have good times all the time. They get everything they want, make more money, lots of people working in factories. Not like when I came, like I told you how miserable it was when I was living over there. Grow everything they eat all year round; you don't buy much over there.

ROYAL: Do you go to any kind of Basque functions here in Burns? Do you ever get together with other Basques to have parties, etc?

MARTINA: Yeah, we used to do it years and years ago. Lots of Basque parties.

ROYAL: What kind of parties would you have, on holidays?

MARTINA: On New Year's Eve. We used to have the best time. We went to Pine Room. We would get together and dances and drinks all night long. We have a good time.

JENNIFER: Why don't you do it anymore?

MARTINA: People are different now. The young people have a different idea. They don't like the things we used to do. But we still do it though. We want to have a picnic this Sunday over here. We have it once a year, Basque picnic. They told us they want to have a roast lamb. And every year they do that. Not all Bascos get along. We're going to have it this Sunday.

ROYAL: Is this just a Basque picnic then?

MARTINA: Well, it is supposed to be Basque, but a lots of Americans go too. As long as you pay so much.

ROYAL: Could we go? Or is it a private affair?

MARTINA: You have to let them know you are coming so that they can have enough food.

ROYAL: Who is organizing this picnic?

MARTINA: My nephew, Florencio Larraneta. I ask him how much it is going to cost, and he says almost like last year. They buy so much food. For men, \$9, for ladies, half price. They are going to have roast lamb, salad, and fruit, and lots of wine and lots of liquor.

ROYAL: Would that be a traditional Basque celebration?

MARTINA: Yeah. And they got music too. They dance Jota and everything last year, but this year they are not going to have any. I don't know what the matter with him, he just say he don't want to go. He play the accordion and the other fella play this tambourine and we have a good time dancing the Spanish Jota.

ROYAL: How many people were there last year?

MARTINA: About 50 or 60.

ROYAL: Do they do this every year?

MARTINA: Every year they have a picnic. And during the springtime, they have another dinner in the Pine Room. They cook in the Pine Room and play music from the outside. They play accordion.

They do this in January. So, we have two Basco celebrations.

ROYAL: Every year it is about the same, picnic in the summer, and then dinner at the Pine Room?

MARTINA: Yes.

JENNIFER: Do you still cook Basque food in your home?

MARTINA: Oh yeah, always.

ROYAL: What is a typical Basque dinner?

MARTINA: Well, codfish and garbanzo beans, tongue and tripe.

ROYAL: Do you use any special seasoning of any kind?

MARTINA: Yeah, lot of people like pig's feet too. Tripe, codfish, garbanzo, lamb, tongue. That's Basco with tomato sauce.

ROYAL: So, you think that at least through these parties, the Basques are staying together?

MARTINA: Yeah, they getting along all right.

... (Confidential information deleted by interviewer.)

JENNIFER: How many Basques are in Burns today?

MARTINA: Quite a few.

ROYAL: How many families would you say?

MARTINA: Urizars, Teresa, Zabala, Plaza, Central, Baraincas, Baraibars, Carman --- quite a few.

ROYAL: Would you say 12 or 15?

MARTINA: Yes.

ROYAL: Is any one family recognized as being the oldest family here, the original one here?

MARTINA: No.

ROYAL: How do you see it for the future for Basques in Harney County? Are they going to continue to identify with that culture, or do you think it's going to die out as the older people die?

MARTINA: Yes, I think so. The young people have different ways, you know. The people come over here are going to continue the same ways.

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