

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #110 - Side A

Subject: Olivia Withers

Place: 974 N. Court - Burns, Oregon

Date: August 2, 1984

Interviewer: Charlene Gates

Release Form: Yes

CHARLENE GATES: (When did your parents) come to Harney County? Or your grandparents?

OLIVIA WITHERS: Yes. Both of my dad's folks came to Harney County in --- well now Hilton Whiting and me, we always get that a little different. '73, wasn't it? My dad was three years old when they came. They came to Harney.

CHARLENE: Was there much of a town there at that time? Not much, I guess.

OLIVIA: No, no. And you know, Aunt Ella Luckey, everybody's heard, she was born at Harney.

CHARLENE: Yeah, I remember her a little bit.

OLIVIA: And she was nearing 100 years old when she passed away.

CHARLENE: Oh my gosh. Oh, I didn't know that gee.

OLIVIA: Yes, she was 99 in July, the 11th of July, and she died in August of that same year. I'd like to have seen her made the 100, but she didn't want to.

CHARLENE: Well, that's a pretty long life anyway.

OLIVIA: Yes, that is.

CHARLENE: Well, where'd your grandparents come from?

OLIVIA: I think my --- my grandparents?

CHARLENE: Uh huh when they came out here.

OLIVIA: Well, I think on my mother's side the grandparents came from Prineville over here, I think. But they had been around different places because I remember my grandmother saying,

granddad, he didn't want to stay anyplace very long. He wanted to keep moving. She says when we got here, she said, "I set my foot down, I'm not going to go again." So ---

CHARLENE: Did they come out and homestead? Take up a homestead in Burns? I mean in Harney?

OLIVIA: Well they came --- that was the Dixon's --- they came right out here across the river, there where Stafford's live. That was their place. (Clock striking in living room.) And they didn't move either, they was there. Well then from the Whiting side --- I don't really know where Grandmother Whiting and Granddad Whiting came, where they came from here. I should know too, but I don't think I know that. Hilton might know. But my own parents, I think my mother was born over in Prineville. They was in Oregon.

CHARLENE: Did they come from the South, maybe?

OLIVIA: No, no. They didn't come from the South. They might have come from like maybe the Middle West our way, or someplace in there.

CHARLENE: Oh, I see. But did they come over and have a homestead near Harney? Did they have a ranch?

OLIVIA: That was my folks from my dad's side. The Whitings came out to Harney there. I don't know how they done that. They must have had a place there, but I don't think there was much of a town at that time.

CHARLENE: Oh, I bet there wasn't.

OLIVIA: 'Course they might have started the town, because --- well, doesn't Pauline (Braymen) have that book of Harney County? It tells a good deal about that in there.

CHARLENE: Oh, I see.

OLIVIA: The Whitings are mentioned in that, when they came to Harney, and the Indian War and everything, you know.

CHARLENE: Yeah, she probably has that book.

OLIVIA: Well then, the Whitings, they later moved down here and they lived right out here by the river, you know. Well, it's right in there where Walters, Naomi Walters and them are, you know,

right across the river from the Biggs place. And then I had that little part of the place there. And Lottie --- Bossuots, they have it now. I let them have it. So it's still in the family.

CHARLENE: You were a Whiting?

OLIVIA: Uh huh.

CHARLENE: Oh, I didn't remember.

OLIVIA: Well, you wouldn't, probably, Charlene, no you wouldn't remember that. But your folks would.

CHARLENE: Oh yeah, sure, yeah, they would know.

OLIVIA: Yeah, I was a Whiting, my dad was Frank Whiting, and then Hilton Whiting out here, you know, his dad was George Whiting. And Norma Curtis --- well let's see, there's two of them here now, two of the kids here. Lottie's gone, and Herbert's died, and Wayne died, and then there's one girl, Audrey, she lives over in Lakeview country.

CHARLENE: So, you grew up near Harney?

OLIVIA: No.

CHARLENE: Or near Burns?

OLIVIA: I grew up right here, right near Burns. But I wasn't in Burns so much, you know, maybe once a year on the Fourth of July or something special.

CHARLENE: Oh really, is that all? Oh, for goodness sakes. There must not have been much of a town.

OLIVIA: Well, there wasn't, but then you've heard of this Egan, the starter of it, I guess.

CHARLENE: I don't really know too much about the early history, just, you know, the Dalton Store.

OLIVIA: Well, the Dalton Store was about one of the earliest stores, wasn't it? Well, my Grandmother Dixon, they lived right out here, as I say, right across. And that was on my mother's side. She peddled butter here in town, and the Daltons was one of the customers. Let's see, the Daltons, and the McConnell's, and well, all those older people. Gaults and all them, every week. And horse and buggy, too.

... (Unrelated)

CHARLENE: Well, she peddled butter in a horse and carriage?

OLIVIA: Yes. She'd milked cows and made the butter.

CHARLENE: On a churn?

OLIVIA: Yeah, churned it, then worked it and molded it into pounds or two-pound rolls, and then peddled it all around town.

CHARLENE: That must have taken an awful lot of time.

OLIVIA: Well, it was work all the time. But then as I say, they didn't have all these activities and going someplace every day like people do now.

CHARLENE: Well, what did you do all day? I mean, what were some of the things you would do?

OLIVIA: Well, by the time you done all the chores in the morning, that was outside chores, you know, milking, taking care of all that milk, and then the butter and the household things, you were pretty busy all the time. Washing and ironing and regular things. There just wasn't any time for fooling around, you might say.

CHARLENE: I guess not. Did you have any spare time ever? I wondered what you did at all for recreation. Were there dances or something?

OLIVIA: Well, not very much, really. We kids didn't --- we didn't have vacations. We didn't go any place. Well, my Grandmother Whiting, she'd take us to church when she could get a hold of us, in the old horse and buggy. But she went to church every Sunday. She was a Baptist; she was a pretty strong Baptist. And then, she --- later years, she got to smoking a pipe, you know, like some of those old ladies smoked a pipe. And then she joined the Nazarene Church. She threw her pipe away. Then she really did go to church every Sunday. Of course, that was in later years.

CHARLENE: So, there was at least a Baptist and a Nazarene Church here.

OLIVIA: Well, the Nazarene Church didn't come till later years, but in the earlier years I guess they had a Baptist Church. And I think Presbyterian Church was one of the older churches. I don't know, I think that book tells which church came --- was in here first. I've read it, but me and

memory... these things. Like I say, I never was really too good on history. No, we didn't have a great deal of recreation. There was quite a few of the younger people around my ages, oh maybe in the wintertime they had skating parties, they'd go out skating or something like that. But we never, because of my mom, she didn't ever allow us, she was so afraid we'd get hurt or something. She had a bunch of girls, and she was pretty protective of them.

And occasionally, they had these --- in the wintertime, you know, they had these old dances, barn dances or someplace where they could gather. That was more of a neighborhood thing or affair. Well, they had lots of fun, yeah. 'Course they'd all take a big potluck supper, you know. At midnight they'd have supper and coffee. And we'd make coffee in a big old tub or wash-boiler, or something. I never was a coffee drinker, but they always said that was the best coffee they ever had because everybody'd take a little sack of coffee and then they'd put it all in together. And that was several blends of coffee there, you know, so I guess it made pretty good coffee.

CHARLENE: Oh, that'd be fun. Well, where did they get the music for it? Was it just people around locally?

OLIVIA: Well yeah, just anybody that could fiddle a little. I did, myself, I second on the piano with guys different times for their violin. That's about all they had was a violin and organ, or piano to play a chord on.

CHARLENE: That's all you need, I think.

OLIVIA: Well, made pretty good music sometimes, I guess. We liked it, anyway. 'Course I was a fiend for dancing; I never wanted to go to bed or sleep or anything. Another thing, they took their whole family. My dad had a big old fur coat, and he always took that along. And maybe they'd go on bobsleds, you know. And he'd wrap the kids --- little old kids --- up in the coat when they'd go to sleep, get tired and go to sleep, you know. No babysitting. Nobody went off for babysitting. I sometimes wish they'd take kids now to places, but they leave them, you know.

CHARLENE: That'd be fun if they had things for the whole family.

OLIVIA: Yes, then the family could do things together that way. That was about the size of any entertainments.

CHARLENE: Did they have weddings? Did they have parties after weddings or anything?

OLIVIA: No.

CHARLENE: Just kind of quiet weddings?

OLIVIA: Kind of quiet weddings. Kind of family. Wedding ceremony and that was about it. No, I don't think they ever had, I don't think they had much in the way of dinners or anything either afterwards. I never had anything when I was married, either. I just got married. I was married at home. You'd be married there in the house, in your home, you know.

CHARLENE: Oh, I see. Not in church?

OLIVIA: No, not very often.

CHARLENE: Then people started to work right after the weddings.

OLIVIA: Yes, didn't go off honeymooning or anything like that.

CHARLENE: Had to go back to work, huh?

OLIVIA: Oh dear. When you think about these gals getting married now, and boys, they wouldn't know what it is, do they?

CHARLENE: No, I've played for some awfully fancy weddings, just terribly expensive.

OLIVIA: Yes, they're expensive, and go through all that, and maybe it don't last. 'Cause when they get down to saving pennies --- what if they had to do like the really old-timers, you know, make all their own things.

CHARLENE: What kinds of things did your family have to make, I mean, that you couldn't go out and buy? Did you make your own soap and stuff like that?

OLIVIA: Yeah, they'd make their own soap, that old lye soap, you know. Donna Goddard over here makes that lye soap yet.

CHARLENE: Oh, for goodness sakes, I didn't know that.

OLIVIA: Yeah. And wash on a washtub with a washboard. And there was quite a lot of time. And maybe little old kids would have just about one good dress and petticoats with ruffles around them, you had to wash and iron all of those. I tell you, they went through some deals, all right.

CHARLENE: Sounds like awful hard work.

OLIVIA: Yeah, but you know, I believe they was happier, and they stayed together, and they worked together. I know my mother said, she said Dad helped her more when the kids were all little than he did after we was grown up. Of course, you know, he'd help get the kids dressed, and she'd be cooking or doing something.

CHARLENE: Where did you go to school? In town here?

OLIVIA: I went to school through the eighth grade, I think, was eighth grade here in town. But mostly out --- right out here at Poison Creek, the Poison Creek School. I never went to high school.

CHARLENE: Oh, you didn't.

OLIVIA: Delphine now, when she came along, she was the youngest one, she finished, she went clear through high school. And she stayed, well, she stayed right here at this place where I am now with Grandmother Dixon and went to school. And she went clear through high school, and she took up beauty work. And she went into Portland and took that. And then Ellen, she was next to the youngest, she never finished high school, or didn't go to high school. But later she went out to Boise and took up some --- what do I want to say --- secretarial work. And then she worked a while. But that was about the size of it.

CHARLENE: Did you go; was Poison Creek a one-room school?

OLIVIA: Uh huh. And all grades.

CHARLENE: All grades. How many kids were there? Do you remember?

OLIVIA: I don't remember how many kids. It varied; I suppose. But there was quite a little neighborhood out there, so there must --- I think there was times there was quite a bunch of children there. Schoolteachers usually boarded at my mother's place, 'cause we was pretty near the schoolhouse there. And Agnes Stallard and Enid [Cawfield-McGowan] both taught school out there. Annie Cote, she was the mother of Frank Cote here, you know. Before she was ever married, she stayed there, or she taught school out there.

CHARLENE: I didn't know they had been there that long.

OLIVIA: Yeah. Of course, I guess as time went on, why, and things kept changing, they got --- but they never did get down to any one or two grades. They had all grades, from the first up to the

eighth, you about finished the eighth grade there, and sometimes you took it over twice.

CHARLENE: What did you do after you finished school?

OLIVIA: Just stayed home.

CHARLENE: Did work on the ranch?

OLIVIA: Just worked. Sometimes through threshing season we'd go out and help somebody cook or something. I did, anyway. The younger girls didn't do that so much. And that was about any kind of work we had. No, we all stayed home.

CHARLENE: What did you do after the days work was done? Did you have any sort of entertainment, or singing or anything?

OLIVIA: No.

CHARLENE: Fell into bed?

OLIVIA: Ready to go to bed!

CHARLENE: I'll bet. Up early, I suppose.

OLIVIA: Yes, up early.

CHARLENE: I don't think I could take that. Too lazy.

OLIVIA: Well, I don't know. If you didn't know any better and people didn't do any different, why you wouldn't --- I suppose you went along with it.

CHARLENE: Well, what did you raise? Cattle and sheep?

OLIVIA: Yeah, my folks raised cattle, and farmed. My dad was mostly a farmer. He liked farming, and he was a good farmer. But he had a few head of cattle; no big herds like some of them have around now.

CHARLENE: Did you raise all your own meat and vegetables and things like that?

OLIVIA: Mostly. He was a good gardener. And my mother milked cows and made butter. Had lots of bread and butter and milk. Made your own bread. Made about everything, I guess. Oh, I tell you, it really was. I look back now, I guess I didn't --- well I didn't know any different then. But I look back now and think, my goodness. If you started out housekeeping now and do everything like they did, and start raising a family, you'd really think you was in prison, wouldn't you?



CHARLENE: That's an awful lot of work.

OLIVIA: Yes, it's a lot of work. No doubt about that.

CHARLENE: Such big families in those days. How many were there in your family?

OLIVIA: We had four girls, all girls. I didn't work outside much, but my two younger sisters, they worked outside quite a bit, like in haying time, they'd run the rake or mower or something. They didn't have all the machinery that they have now. They had machinery, but it was a different kind, and drawn by horse, you know. So, there was horses to take care of, too.

CHARLENE: I don't think I could have taken that kind of hard work. I know it was just dawn to sunset, wasn't it?

OLIVIA: Yes, it was, it really was.

CHARLENE: And a lot of cooking. Did you have hired hands on the ranch?

OLIVIA: Yes. Through the harvest season which, you know, there was the haying through the, late July, then about September why the harvest of grain started. And I think when they first started raising grain, they had to cut it and then shock it up in shocks, you know, all by hand. Then of course they had the header that came along later, and that headed it, and you didn't have all that shocking to do. That was a big lift when that came. I don't know how they do now. They don't raise too much grain around here in Harney County anymore.

CHARLENE: Has the weather changed? Or I wonder why they don't ...

OLIVIA: Not really. I think it's just some of the farmland had been taken up with people, and they just either work in town or raise a little hay, and a few cows or something, you know.

CHARLENE: Maybe it wasn't profitable or something.

OLIVIA: Well, it may be that they --- I don't know how that kinda has switched around, but I think there's a few people out in Rye Grass country like Wallace Shepard and some of them that still farm and raise some grain, because my folks down here, Dick and them, they buy a lot of grain for their cattle for wintertime to feed, you know. And they've been getting quite a bit from out that way. And I don't know who else does. I guess over in that Silver Creek country they do a little farming over there. I don't know how, to any great extent, but I know when you go along the highway

there's several places, it's been plowed up and worked there. Of course, they have all this machinery now to do that with.

CHARLENE: Yeah. Probably makes it a little easier, I'm sure. Did you keep a lot of horses on the ranch? How many did you have to keep?

OLIVIA: No, we didn't. My dad didn't keep too many horses. He kept enough horses to do his work with, but he didn't have a lot of riding to do. He only had maybe two, a couple of saddle horses or something. 'Course he had a place up in the mountains here and what cattle he kept he could just take them up there and leave them for the summer, 'cause he didn't have a big layout like some of these people have.

But there was Uncle Skip Whiting, now he was a horse fiend, and he kept horses. That's all he had, was horses. And there wasn't any money in them, of course.

CHARLENE: Just quarter horses, work horses, did you keep, or ---

OLIVIA: I think he kept mostly riding, saddle horses, 'cause lots of people would go out there and, you know, just go for a horseback ride. He liked that, he didn't farm much, he didn't farm at all. Darned if I know what he done. He just had his horses, that were about it. He never did marry --- well, he did marry one time, but otherwise he mostly bached all his life.

CHARLENE: Did he race horses or sell them for racing?

OLIVIA: Yes, oh yes.

CHARLENE: Was there a place around here that you could race? Horses --- have a horse race?

OLIVIA: Well, he lived out here on the old Whiting place, right out here by the river, and he could have his horses there in the fields.

CHARLENE: I mean was there a regular --- was there a track? Did a lot of people race horses?

OLIVIA: I don't know about that. Oh, there's quite a few, they must have raced horses. Well Uncle George Whiting, he was a good hand with horses. And he had some good horses. He didn't go to any extent with it, but he had some nice horses. And he was good with horses.

CHARLENE: It takes a special hand, I suppose.

OLIVIA: And then --- 'Course there was a few people freighted, you know, with teams, freight

teams. They'd go to Ontario or Vale and bring in loads of freight for --- I guess the town and different people. So of course, they'd have four and six horse teams there, doing that. And they'd have a camp wagon. 'Course they couldn't do that in a day like they do now, go over old Stinkingwater Mountain out here, all these places.

CHARLENE: Well, how long did it take, I wonder, to go to Ontario or something like that, or John Day?

OLIVIA: I don't know. I've heard them talk about it, but I don't really know how long. It'd take three or four days though, I imagine. Of course, you know with a team you couldn't --- well I know, I heard them say many times, Stinkingwater was one camp spot where they'd stay overnight. They couldn't drive those horses day and night, you know, because they'd have to camp and feed and take care of their horses. And I don't know where another --- it'd take three or four days, I imagine.

CHARLENE: Gosh. I keep thinking of Burns as isolated now; boy, that would really be isolated to be three or four days away.

OLIVIA: Yeah, I should say.

CHARLENE: Did you ever get to go to Ontario and those ---

OLIVIA: No. No, we all stayed home. When my folks built the big house out here --- 'course its burned down now. I wonder --- do you know what year the old Dalton house was built here in town?

CHARLENE: Gosh, no --- it was before, I think it was before 1900. I'm pretty sure it was before then, 'cause it was about 75 years old when it was torn down. It was around 1900.

OLIVIA: Yeah. I guess I've heard it said, but I don't remember. I was wondering if our house was built about that time. But anyway, my dad went to Ontario with a team and picked up --- they had to order stuff, you know, and picked up the doors and windows and things like that for that house. I remember that I can remember that. And he went with a team, too. Well, I think he probably --- about ten days maybe, going and getting it. There was some awful nice doors in that house. I wish I had some of them.

CHARLENE: Well, it's just all torn down.

OLIVIA: Yeah. I hate to see these old places torn away. I kind of like to see them revived and kept going.

CHARLENE: It could have been used for something.

OLIVIA: Well, I'm sure they could, too.

CHARLENE: Why, they could have moved the museum in there, something like that.

OLIVIA: Well, you know, when you've been on trips or something, you go through some of these museums that's been fixed up from old --- some old home, even restaurants. And I just loved that, going into some old home where they had an eating place fixed up. They're always nice, I think.

CHARLENE: Oh yes, yeah. Oh well, it's gone.

OLIVIA: It's just the way times change.

CHARLENE: Now it's back to --- people want to keep the antique houses and so forth now that they're all torn down. That's the funny thing about it.

OLIVIA: Well, that's just true Charlene, and I imagine that we've all thrown away things that we wish we'd have kept now. 'Cause they do have that craze. I don't know, I never was too strong on it, but I can yet see where very likely everybody has thrown away something that now, if they had it, do something with --- so I guess. And back East, it's worse than it is here, 'cause they are worse to keep those old things, don't you think?

CHARLENE: Oh yeah. Well, they have so many older things; you know, houses that are three hundred years old ---

OLIVIA: Yes, they do, because when you take these tours, you know, you tour some of them sometimes, and you can see how it is.

CHARLENE: Well, here something's old if it's a hundred years old. That's pretty old here.

OLIVIA: Well, here's this Donegan house down here, where Doherty's live, that's a pretty old house, but they keep that up pretty nice. Of course, that was the Foley house.

CHARLENE: ... I was wondering about when you went to school out here, what it was like, going to a one-room school. I've never been to one so --- all I did was go to grade school and high school, and so forth, so --- What time did you start in the morning? Did you just walk to school?

OLIVIA: Oh yes. There were no buses, or anything like that.

CHARLENE: Must have been close enough to walk.

OLIVIA: Well, we were close enough to walk. Some of them wasn't, but they'd either come with their horse or --- Like for one thing that I remember, the Culp kids, or the Mace kids, Clarence Mace and his sister Hazel, they lived down this, like down the Hanley Lane there. Well, you know, let's see, what would it be called now? It's the old Mace place. It's an old place, that --- down there, where Hazel lived. Do you happen to remember Hazel Culp?

CHARLENE: I think maybe I do, yeah vaguely.

OLIVIA: Well, Pat Culp's on the old Leven's place. Well, then just below it is the Mace place, but when you go down Hanley Lane you can see it off to the right there, big house over to the right there. And who lives there now? Pat's got somebody living there, oh, Clark I think, one of Tessa's kids. A boy and his wife live there now. But Hazel lived there, and she remodeled it, fixed it, but she was raised there, she and her brother Clarence. Well, they'd come horseback, and we could always see Clarence and Hazel coming up that lane just a riding like --- to anything. They'd just come a flying. Well, those horses, they had to tie them up and leave them there all day, you know, and ... But we always walked, and the Baker kids walked. There was some Culp's lived just over by us too, they walked. One of them was Hazel's husband, Charlie Culp. That was that bunch of Culp kids. And well, anybody that was around there close, they walked.

Well, I don't know, as far as going to school it was just like any other school, I think, we just mixed there. But you was in whatever grade you was in, and took your exams and everything.

CHARLENE: What kind of subjects did you study?

OLIVIA: Well, nothing special. We just had reading and writing, and arithmetic, and spelling. We had these spelling bees, some maybe once a month on Friday afternoons or something. And somehow or other I rated pretty good on that. 'Cause I've still got some little old prizes I got from spelling bees.

And I took some special writing from a Professor Rigby; he was the County School Superintendent, by mail. I did take that, one time. But just the regular studies, no nothing special.

CHARLENE: Did you have Christmas programs?

OLIVIA: Yes, yes, they had Christmas, some nice Christmas programs.

CHARLENE: What did you do for those?

OLIVIA: Oh, had Christmas songs, and each --- well each kid would get up and have his little piece or whatever he done, you know, whatever he was fitted for, like if he sang pretty well. And then group singing, and the whole neighborhood would turn out and go.

CHARLENE: Did you have a graduation ceremony when you got through with the eighth grade?

OLIVIA: No.

CHARLENE: You didn't?

OLIVIA: No. I think maybe we got a little, kind of a diploma from the County Superintendent, or something like that.

CHARLENE: Was the Superintendent in Burns? Did he live in Burns, or somewhere else?

OLIVIA: I don't remember. I think they must have been in and around Burns somewhere. And I think Lester Hamilton was Superintendent once, too. I remember this Rigby because he was a beautiful scribe, you know, and I took some writing lessons from him. Then, gee I don't know how old I was, but my cousin Ida Cross and I, we were the two oldest of the two families, and my Grandmother Dixon, she wanted to give us some music lessons. So, Lea Robinson was here in Burns --- you remember the Robinson's? You wouldn't remember them.

CHARLENE: I don't think so.

OLIVIA: No. They was some more people that she peddled butter to. Well, this Lea Robinson was going to give us music lessons, and did. But Grandmother Dixon --- that was from my mother's side, she took a board, about a foot board, and they marked all the keys, you know, and everything on that. And we learned our notes and things off of that. Finally, our folks got an old organ, we had an organ. I think Jo Schroder's still got the organ. So, we took some music lessons from Lea. Then later, I took some more music lessons from Celia's aunt here, Madge Leonard. She was one of the Byrds. And then she married Leonard, and I took some lessons from her. Then after I was married, I got myself a piano, and I took some lessons from Mrs. Harris. And Reverend

Harris was the minister of our church here.

CHARLENE: Oh, that was way before my time, I guess.

OLIVIA: Well, probably was, because that was around 1925, '26, and I took some lessons from her. I come clear down from Harney, down here, to take some music lessons.

CHARLENE: Gosh, oh my. Did you have to ride in, I mean by horse?

OLIVIA: No, no, we had a car then. Yeah, we had a car. In 1915 my dad, he had bought a place just across the road from us, a little more farmland, it was, it wasn't meadow or anything. Then he said that year, if we worked hard and we got that place paid for, why we'd go to the Fair, San Francisco Fair.

CHARLENE: Oh yeah, the World Fair!

OLIVIA: Well, Archie McGowan, who was in the Burns Garage here, you know, he had a Ford car, an old, not a new Ford. So, my dad bought this new Ford, and we got the place paid for, and we went to the Fair in that car.

CHARLENE: Oh my.

OLIVIA: And that was one of those first old Ford cars.

CHARLENE: How long did it take you to drive from ---

OLIVIA: Oh dear, I don't know. We drove and drove, and we got down there. Archie had been to the Fair ahead of that, so he gave Dad all these pointers as to where to go, and places to stay, or something. But my mother was scared to death we kids would get lost, you know. "Dad, where's the girls? Where's the girls?" I think she worried more about that than she --- But I guess we must have had fun, and we thought we had done something when we went to the Fair.

CHARLENE: Oh, that must have been really a thrilling experience.

OLIVIA: Well, it was. It was kind of a past memory to remember too, with me. Well, I think the other girls kinda --- 'cause we often, sometimes when we'd get together, we'd think, well, do you remember when we went to the Fair. You know how that goes? That was our first trip, any place.

CHARLENE: Gosh. Did the car ever break down?

OLIVIA: No, the car just went fine.

CHARLENE: Oh, I heard they had a lot of breakdowns. But that's, my that's something.

OLIVIA: Yeah. ... (Unrelated)

CHARLENE: Well, how long did you get to stay at the Fair?

OLIVIA: Oh dear, I don't know. I think we was gone maybe a couple weeks, anyway. But we had quite a trip that time. My lordy, I'd have no idea now where we went or how we got there and back. And then I think from --- where was it we had to take a boat and go across to San Francisco, where would that --- Oakland, would that be?

CHARLENE: Oh, possibly, yeah, I guess so.

OLIVIA: Well, we had to get on a boat there and just drive off with the car, you know, and cross over to San Francisco. Then hunt our place where we was supposed to go.

CHARLENE: Oh, that must have been a fabulous experience.

OLIVIA: Oh, as I say, you know, we just thought we had done something pretty big.

CHARLENE: Oh yeah. Well, that was a real famous Fair, though.

OLIVIA: Yes, yeah, you bet.

CHARLENE: Do you remember anything you did down there? What was interesting to see?

OLIVIA: Oh no, I don't. I don't really. I just remember that it was a big Fair, like all these fairs are, you just go around looking at things. But I don't think there was anything special we done. Perhaps my folks was glad to get started back, to get away from there, probably. Time, they had four kids to look after. But we was all old enough to kind of get around. But there was six of us in that little Ford car, you know. Wondered how that many of us got ---

CHARLENE: You camped out along the way?

OLIVIA: Not very much. We come across --- I don't know where that would have been. That wouldn't have been Burney Mountain, would it? But someplace on the way back, well it was kind of getting late, and so we didn't camp out, we laid out on that mountain one night. My dad brought up a big log and made a fire, and I guess we must have had a little lunch in the car with us. We didn't have very much, because we couldn't take anything extra besides ourselves. And I think Mother had a couple of robes, big robes, and a few little wraps or something. Well, we kind of



covered up with them, and Dad kept that fire going all night. But we laid out that one night, I remember that one.

No, we didn't camp out because --- 'course we had no trailers or didn't know what trailers was then or anything. Really took a vacation. That was, been years of doing it though, see.

CHARLENE: That sounds wonderful, to go like that. Gee.

OLIVIA: Well, you can imagine a bunch of kids, they'd have fun.

CHARLENE: Uh huh. Yeah, I bet they would.

OLIVIA: But it would be a kind of responsibility for parents.

CHARLENE: Uh huh. Yeah, I don't think ... Well, how old were you, all the children at that time? You weren't real little, were you?

OLIVIA: Oh no, we was all big enough to kinda --- oh, I don't know. I don't imagine maybe the two younger girls was in school, I think they must have been. So, the youngest one would have to be seven, or eight, or nine years old, from there on up. 'Course I was the oldest.

CHARLENE: Was it quite a ways between places to stop when you went from Burns to San Francisco?

OLIVIA: Well probably was, I don't remember. But somehow, we managed to have places. They might have been kinda mapped out, the places for us. Because this Archie McGowan, you know, had been down there, and he'd routed a way --- stops and different things. So, we had those to kinda look to and follow, which helps any time, you know.

CHARLENE: Oh yes. It's still pretty lonely, I mean, to drive, you know, from Burns to anywhere. Pretty long, lonely drive.

OLIVIA: Yes. You know Barbara Lee Miller?

CHARLENE: I don't think so. It doesn't sound familiar.

OLIVIA: Well, she was home here this summer ...

(END OF TAPE)

bl