

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #115 - Sides A/B

Subject: John Crow

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: May 24, 1985

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

Release Form: Yes

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PAULINE BRAYMEN: I'm Pauline Braymen, and I'm interviewing Johnny Crow on May 24th, 1985 at his home in Burns. And he's going to be the Pioneer Day President for this years Pioneer Day Celebration. First of all I got your age all screwed up in the paper the other day, so maybe we should start with that and find out when you were born.

JOHN CROW: I was born in 1902, the 27th of July.

PAULINE: Where were you born?

JOHN: Cedarville, California.

PAULINE: And who were your parents?

JOHN: Dave Crow and Martha Young. Martha Young was her maiden name.

PAULINE: Were you the oldest, or do you have older brothers and sisters?

JOHN: Rankin is almost two years older than me.

PAULINE: Did you have anyone after you, or you two boys ---

JOHN: Well, there was a couple of --- a boy and a girl born after I was born, but they didn't live long.

PAULINE: And you came to Harney County when you were 4 years old?

JOHN: Well, that's probably about right.

PAULINE: Do you remember anything about that trip?

JOHN: Oh, we made several trips, you see, my dad boarded us out at Cedarville. Our mother passed away when I was 2 years old; and he boarded us out with a lady, her name was Mrs. Perry. That's about 9 months out of the year, you see. In the summertime my dad run the buckaroo outfit at the Seven T for several years. We'd be all over the desert. If the rides was too far horseback, I rode with the cook. He had four meals in the cook wagon, and that's when we moved, you know. If it wasn't too big a ride, there was a lot of cowboys there, and they'd saddle a horse and just throw me on. And we'd put in 3 months of enjoyable life, you know.

PAULINE: That was the Seven T Ranch?

JOHN: Yes ma'am. Plush, Oregon was their headquarters.

PAULINE: At Plush.

JOHN: You might get her that buckaroo picture if it's handy.

GEORGIA CROW: Yeah, I'll get it.

JOHN: With all the cowboys.

GEORGIA: If you'd like to see some more pictures.

PAULINE: Sure.

JOHN: You'd probably enjoy that. I shouldn't be talking here, should I?

PAULINE: Yeah, that's what we're here to do is visit. Just forget about this, this is ---

GEORGIA: That's just kind of immaterial there.

PAULINE: That helps me keep straight, when I get home I can listen back and ---

GEORGIA: See now, those are the old posts down on Hart Mountain. That was one of the places where he stayed.

PAULINE: That must be the cook wagon.

GEORGIA: Yeah, that's the cook wagon, and the guys.

PAULINE: That was in 1912.

GEORGIA: That's a picture of his mom and dad when they were married.

PAULINE: John looks like his mother.

GEORGIA: Well, somewhat. But he ---

PAULINE: Well, he looks like his dad too, but ---

GEORGIA: What picture was it that you wanted me to get?

JOHN: Have you got the buckaroo outfit?

GEORGIA: Yeah, that was the old post.

JOHN: Rankin is in that picture and so am I. I'm on the little white horse by my dad. Rankin is on a mule.

PAULINE: Okay. That must have been --- really must have been a good time for a little boy.

JOHN: Oh, yes! And we named the cook; his name was Bob LaVoy. We named him "Panny-cake Bob".

PAULINE: Bob LaVoy?

GEORGIA: Yeah.

PAULINE: Do you know how you spell that?

GEORGIA: Pauline, I just ---

PAULINE: L a V O Y.

GEORGIA: When I wrote the story, I just did it by sound. I would say L a V O Y, LaVoy. Because there's no possible way to check that out that I can see.

...

PAULINE: What were some of the things that you did as a boy when you were out with the buckaroos, other than ride along with them? I'd imagine there were games that you played, or things ---

JOHN: Well there were no fences in those days, and cattle was scattered all the way from Warner to Clover Swale, back through Catlow Valley. It was a big country those days. And we'd move from one camp to the other one, you know. Move the cook wagon, and had a wrangle. He used to get the brush, drag in the brush for the cook, and wrangle the horses, you know. And my dad and Rankin and I slept in a tepee tent. That tent is in the picture, the three of us used to sleep together.

GEORGIA: Here's something he did in Cedarville. He helped those two girls with their goat and their cart.

JOHN: That was at Cedarville, and those was the Street girls, Mildred and Marie. Marie married a Governor.

GEORGIA: Marie was a Lt. Governor's wife in California.

JOHN: We saw Mildred for several years --- ago since we was

married though. Her and her husband run a motel, had a motel.

GEORGIA: Must have been 20 years ago though, dearie.

JOHN: Oh, it's been more than that.

GEORGIA: Maybe more than that. Time sure slides by.

PAULINE: Well at what point in time then did your --- did your dad come over here to start ranching then, later or ---

JOHN: Oh, yes. He got a place, homesteaded a place at the Clover Swale. And then after he did that we put our time in out at Clover Swales, you see.

PAULINE: Were there very many people out there then?

JOHN: Oh yes. (... Looking at picture.)

PAULINE: Look at that grain.

JOHN: That was my dad's homestead. I think the dates on it.

PAULINE: Well, this is 1910.

JOHN: And I was 8 years old then. Well, you surely wouldn't want all that to read or anything, would you?

PAULINE: Well I'll tell you what, I ask a lot of questions, and then I take a little bit of it to write the story.

GEORGIA: It'll be just in the paper, what she's going to do.

PAULINE: Yeah. But I ask a lot of questions and then I put this in the Oral History Project at the library as well, so I sort of do two things at once. I think you've been interviewed for that before, but I've read some of the things that you did, and I just thought, well you'd probably tell some new stories if I interviewed you too, so ---

GEORGIA: He tells good ones, just keep talking to him, and you'll find things.

PAULINE: Yeah, I know he does. Was this barley that he put in around the homestead, or rye?

GEORGIA: It's rye.

PAULINE: Is it rye?

JOHN: I lost one hearing aid day before yesterday, and I'm having trouble getting this one adjusted, and I didn't get your question.

PAULINE: Okay. I wanted to know what kind of grain this was.

JOHN: Oh, it's rye.

PAULINE: It's rye.

JOHN: Dry land. Of course we went to school to Cedarville during the winters after we was here at the homestead some, you know. Our first teacher at Clover Swale was Gussy Nelson, and she later married Jess Bradeen. You probably knew Jess Bradeen, and Billy.

PAULINE: Bill. Uh huh.

JOHN: I went to school to her at Beckley's too, one year. I lived at Clover Swale, 30 miles away, but I went a horseback. I boarded with Beckley's. They had a store there in Catlow Valley, and a post office. I boarded there, and Gussy boarded there too. But on Friday afternoon I used to take the mail back to the settlers at Clover Swale. On a Monday morning I would get up real early and gallop down for school. Did the same thing at Sageview, years later.

PAULINE: You were a Sageview too? Where was Sageview located?

JOHN: Do you know where the Rock Creek Ranch is?

PAULINE: Yeah.

JOHN: Well, it was north and a little west, about four miles from Rock Creek Ranch, from the buildings. They was a store and a post office there too. Mrs. Smith taught school at Clover Swale, but there was only Ione Tucke and myself, and she moved us down to her home at Sageview, it was about 20 mile. And I was mail carrier there. On Friday nights homesteaders would meet at my dad's place. In the morning I'd gallop down to field at Rock Creek. I'd turn my horse in, chain horse ---

PAULINE: That's quite a gallop, 20, 30 miles. How long did it take you to gallop that far?

JOHN: Oh, I don't know. I'd probably make 8 mile an hour. I was a kid and I rode pretty fast. I don't remember. Going to Sageview probably took me a couple hours; it's 18, 20 miles, something like that.

GEORGIA: See, there were --- at one time there were lots of kids in Catlow Valley.

PAULINE: I guess.

GEORGIA: That was the Rag Town School there.

JOHN: Yes, and after we left Sageview, that's how I happened to be in that picture. The teacher got sick at Sageview, or at Rag Town, so Mrs. Smith moved Ione Tucke and I down to Rag Town. And I boarded ... You know Katie, well Katie Harris?

PAULINE: Uh huh. Katie Wheeler now.

JOHN: Katie Wheeler now.

PAULINE: I was going to try to find her.

JOHN: She's in the picture, you can pick her out.

GEORGIA: You can pick her out, she hasn't changed all that much.

PAULINE: The top row.

GEORGIA: I think you can see her; she's got longer hair there.

PAULINE: It must be her right here.

GEORGIA: Yes.

JOHN: It might be better for her to read what you wrote down.

PAULINE: No, I'll tell you what. What you wrote is what they'll use at the thing, and they don't like what I write in the paper to be the same thing that you read. So, if I don't read what you wrote, and if we write the same things then it'll just be a coincidence.

GEORGIA: Well you'll write some of the same things, because we are talking about the same things, but you'll do it in a much different form than we did.

PAULINE: Different way. What they don't want to have happen is for you to get up there with the newspaper and read what I wrote in the newspaper. People are disappointed when you do that.

GEORGIA: It won't be the same. There's no way that you would write it the same way that John and I did.

PAULINE: No. This is a precious picture.

JOHN: I had two copies of that made. Ruthie up here made them, and then I gave one to Katie and one to her brother, Carl Jones,

but he was too young then to go to school.

PAULINE: It would sure be nice for the museum to have this, or the library, one or the other.

JOHN: There's a boy I went to school with; his name was Elmer Critchfield. He sent that to us, and I had two made and I gave one to Katie and one to Carl, and kept the original.

PAULINE: That's neat. Did you go on to high school after you went to grade school, or did you go about eighth grade or ...

JOHN: (Laughter) No, I loaded my saddle and went to Cedarville buckarooing for the Double H outfit.

PAULINE: Double H?

JOHN: Double H.

GEORGIA: It was a big outfit.

JOHN: You see I went to school that spring to Bill Newton. Then I moved to The Narrows and went to school at The Narrows, and I didn't quite finish. I did finish that spring all right. But then Bill Newton taught there the next year at The Narrows, and I had to quit school before we got our questions for a diploma. And he promised me, he said, "If you'll come and go to school until Christmas next year, I'll get the questions so you can get a diploma." And I boarded with George Cawfield and his family; they had a hotel at The Narrows then. And when Christmas come he didn't have no questions, and there was no use of me going to eighth grade another year and I just loaded my bed --- I had a Model-T Ford, and moved to Cedarville.

Well I stopped on the desert, and lived with Jess Bradeen a week or two, or three. He was baching out there, trapping for the government. He was a fine old fellow. Then I went on to Cedarville, and got a job buckarooing for the Double H outfit. They had cattle in there from Long Valley and out at Massacre, was where we turned the cattle out that spring.

GEORGIA: That's in Nevada, I think, isn't' it?

JOHN: Yeah, Massacre is in Nevada. But I don't know --- tell all my life hardly that way, whether I should or not.

PAULINE: About when did you come back to, I know you came back to Harney County to live here at some point in time. When did you come back to this area?

JOHN: Well, I --- let me see, Gussy Nelson was the first teacher that I went to when I came back here.

GEORGIA: After you went off on this first job is what she's talking about, when did you come back to stay sort of?

JOHN: Oh, I came back that summer, or that spring, I stayed down there three or four months. Then I came back to Clover Swale. My dad was living at Clover Swale, and I believe that was when we gathered our workhorses and took them to Adel, and worked for Leland Crump. He had a hay contract, putting up hay for the MC outfit, and we worked our horses and hayed there, and that was in 1919. I remember the date because I went to work buckarooing right after we finished haying for the MC, and I stayed there that winter, and then I come back to --- but that's after I quit school

all together. I never went to school anymore.

GEORGIA: Pauline, he's just come and gone, all these early years. He'd go out just to these bigger ranches for a few months at a time and the homestead was his strong hold you might say, but he moved around a lot.

PAULINE: What was your job in the hay field? What did ---

JOHN: Gosh, I did everything, anything. Mostly at the P Ranch, I hayed there several years for Fred and Del Witzel. They used to contract stacking the P Ranch hay. I was pull-back boy most of the time, and I also wrangled of a morning, and I got two bits for wrangling of a morning extra, and I got two-bits for wrangling at noon. We worked horses, you know.

GEORGIA: Big wages.

PAULINE: What was a day's wages in the hay field then?

JOHN: The Company, the last year I worked there, I believe it was the last year; I worked for Judd Wise until they got the hay ready to stack. The Company used to get the hay bunched, you see, cut and bunched and what they called two-horse buck loads, and then Wetzels used four-horse rudder bucks, and they'd pick about three of them up at a time, you see. They used to stack over a hundred ton of hay a day.

PAULINE: That's a lot of hay.

JOHN: I don't remember the exact dates on them.

PAULINE: That's not important. Around 1920? About 1920?

JOHN: It was --- it's kind of hard for me to get that straight, I

don't like to tell any lies, you know. I worked different places a lot.

PAULINE: Well when you were a young man, that would have been when you were about 20, 21, 22 along in there.

JOHN: Well, it was before I was 22 I believe. I worked for --- I started buckarooing at the P Ranch for Augustine Gilbert in the fall of '22, and it was before that.

PAULINE: Before that. That gives us about what time it was.

GEORGIA: That's Augustine's house out there at Clover Swale, and that's a picture of Augustine. ...

PAULINE: This one is made out of stones.

GEORGIA: Yeah, it was a rock house ---

PAULINE: Rock house, uh huh.

GEORGIA: --- pretty much. Augustine's house.

JOHN: Augustine Gilbert's, yes. Rankin and I stayed with him quite a bit when we was kids, and so did my dad. Old Chino, he came in here with Pete French.

GEORGIA: That's Augustine and this --- let's see, that was Rankin, and John, and his dad, and Mrs. Nelson.

JOHN: Gussy Nelson took the picture.

PAULINE: Did your dad ever remarry?

JOHN: Was he what?

PAULINE: Your dad never remarried?

JOHN: No. He threatened me once --- I was pretty small.

PAULINE: If you didn't behave he would get you a stepmother?

JOHN: Well, he was joshing, but I took it to heart. And he had an old brown horse that, he was gave to Dad because he was mean, and my dad broke him three different times, and he'd outlaw on the fellows when they'd take him back. So they gave him to my dad. A fellow by the name of Turner there at Cedarville. Then I was very small, and we herded horses then. Well, that was even before I was big enough to herd horses at Clover Swale, and he had old Poncho tied to the watering trough, and it was a good block away from where the corral was. He was afoot up at the corral, and when he saw me I'd untied him and was trying to get on. I was pretty short-legged, and I was swinging on his side trying to climb on, and old Poncho just looking at me. And my dad started to run down there, and he knew he'd scare him if he did, and he just stopped. Pretty quick I got enough strings that I got on. And I rode that horse ever after that.

When he threatened to get married, I was going to take Poncho and leave home. I wasn't just a joshing, and what caused that, when we was coming out from Cedarville, my dad would usually come and get us in a buggy or a spring wagon, you know. We was coming out from Cedarville, we got this side of Lake City and there was some pine trees up this side of Lake City, along both sides of the road, and Hurds lived there, and we used to stay all night there on our way out. And there was a family camped in some pine trees just across the road and one was a stepmother, and she had them kids a bawling all the time. And that stuck in my craw, most of

my life, and I didn't want a stepmother. No, my dad was only kidding me; he was going to trade old Poncho and the spring wagon for a woman that lived at Downs'. It wasn't this Downs; it was another Downs in Catlow Valley. These Downs' was living out there at Waterhole Canyon at the time, Charlie Downs. Edna is still alive, you know, and Opal. Charlie Cawfield is Edna's son.

PAULINE: Yeah, I know Edna. When did you meet Georgia, and how did that all come about?

JOHN: Well I can tell you that date, 1936.

GEORGIA: In the fall of '36.

JOHN: She was teaching school out at Voltage. Am I supposed to tell you now?

GEORGIA: Uh huh.

JOHN: She was teaching school out there at Voltage, and Taft Miller, he'd baby-sit me when I was 4 years old, and he was 14. But we'd been together all of our life, and they was living at Voltage. I was working for the government, and I had a bach cabin, old George Benson's squatter's right, and I was working for the government. And they moved me from my homestead at Buena Vista down there so I'd be closer to --- they was more cattle coming in, McEwen's, and different people, and I had to count cattle that came into the refuge, you see, and they moved me down there. Georgia just lived over the fence, and boarded with some folks.

GEORGIA: I boarded with Culver Marshall's family. ...

JOHN: Well, Taft used to saddle up a horse and come over and stay with me at the bach cabin once in a while overnight. I never would stay with him overnight, but I'd visit him quite a bit. Georgia had about four Miller kids --- Don, and Gene.

GEORGIA: I had Don, and Gene, and Virginia, and Lucille, and Delta, or "Tiny" they called her in school. I had five of them.

JOHN: It was about a quarter of a mile from Taft's place.

GEORGIA: See they had cattle on the lake, Pauline, and they brought their kids down there just from September until Christmas, in the Voltage School.

JOHN: And I wasn't going to stay for supper there at Taft's that night, but when school was out, why here come the kids in a high run and I knew all of them, you know. And Georgia had to walk two and a half miles at least, wasn't it?

GEORGIA: About two and a half miles.

JOHN: And the kids come up there, and I'd never met Ula then. Kids came up there and they named Georgia "Missy", and said, "John, will you take Missy home?" "Sure," I said, "if she wants to go home I'll take her home all right." I was going home, you see, and right, you might say where she lived. And then I guess we never met anymore, until you come back from your vacation after Christmas.

GEORGIA: I don't think so. The kids made a big issue of getting me to go home with him that night. They came tearing back up to the schoolhouse to see if I'd gone, and then they cleaned house.

You never saw so much chalk dust and alkali fly in your life. ...

JOHN: They told me we'll do the work for Missy if you'll take her home.

GEORGIA: I was going to clean up the schoolhouse, you see, and correct some papers. Gee, when they come back, I think they made more dust probably than there was already.

JOHN: Oh, they were a fine family though.

GEORGIA: And I don't think we went anywhere again until in February after I came back from Christmas vacation.

JOHN: You see that was awful cold winter. It went 30 and 40 below. And Georgia was holed up she couldn't go to school, and she couldn't get a fire in the stove, the stovepipe had plugged up.

GEORGIA: The stovepipe got plugged up, and nobody would help me out, it was a long stovepipe --- well, five or six joints, and I couldn't take it down.

JOHN: It was too cold for the kids and her to walk to school and ---

GEORGIA: I couldn't get enough heat, and it was 30 below and the kids insisted on riding horseback, and I convinced one boy that walking was warmer than riding, because you were up in the wind, you see. And the other kid, he was stubborn as all get out, and he wouldn't --- but he got so cold he couldn't get in the schoolhouse when he got there. So I just closed up things.

It was one of these family affairs where Culver and Violet

were fighting and all, and I came back to find a girl from Pendleton wearing my clothes and stuff. And we got a telegram in the mail that said that her mother was in the hospital, and so when I cooked dinner that day, I'd quit going to school because it was just too cold, you see. When Culver came in, I said, "Dinner's on the table, and Margaret's packing her stuff, and I'll pack yours while you eat, and you take her either to the bus in town, or to Pendleton, one or the other, and now." I was fed to the teeth with that kind of stuff. "Well, how will you feed the cattle?" And I said, "I've never harnessed a team in my life, but I'll bet I can harness these, and the boys and I'll get the cows fed somehow, or we'll get somebody to help." I said, "John's over the fence, and he's there most of the time." But, I didn't have to worry, Carl Jones came just as Culver was leaving, and so he just moved in and stayed and he and the boys fed cattle and I cooked and we'd watch for John to ---

PAULINE: This is the Miller boys?

GEORGIA: No, this was the Marshall kids. Conley and Junior. Junior died on Lady Island in the Philippines. I think it was Lady, where they had that big invasion, and he was killed there. But Conley lives over in Drewsey.

JOHN: I think I went over and asked you if you wanted --- I used to take in the old time dances up here and I ---

GEORGIA: You came around and asked if we needed groceries, and we sure did, so Culver made a long list and gave me some money, and I

went to town with John then, and we went to a dance and ---

PAULINE: When were you married?

JOHN: Well, about six weeks after that.

PAULINE: About six weeks after that. Were you married in Burns, or did you go to Nevada?

GEORGIA: No, at the First Lutheran Church.

PAULINE: First Lutheran Church.

GEORGIA: The clock struck six in the evening as we were standing in front of the fireplace, getting --- It was in the old ---

JOHN: Hanley Lane was very muddy ---

GEORGIA: It was the 26th of March 1937.

JOHN: ---and people had been getting stuck. And I stopped before I pulled into the mud hole, and I seen if I took a post out of the fence I could lay it in the rut and we could get through without getting stuck. So we come to town, and Georgia had never met my father, and that's where I left my suit was with my dad. He lived up here, and Georgia had never met him, and I --- we walked in and I said, "Well" --- Well, I introduced her to my dad, and I always called him Papa, and I said, "Papa, Georgia and I are going to get married." Georgia was kinda scared.

GEORGIA: Well to go in and meet a man for the first time and have it announced that I was going to marry his son.

JOHN: All he said was, "Well, that's good." But then when we come out from the church, the Sitz boys had a garage where this --- Copeland's are now.

GEORGIA: The Yellowstone Garage. You probably can remember that too.

JOHN: And I always traded with them, and I don't know how they found out we was going to get married.

GEORGIA: Oh! The sheriff told them. Old Frazier told them. We had to get a license, and they knew it up there at the courthouse.

JOHN: Yeah, they sent us home to sober up for three days. That's what the law was, you know. Well Georgia was teaching school, and I was riding down there for the government, and we even sobered up a week. And we was in the Lutheran Church, and when we came out, why one of the Sitz boys had the hood up. I had a Plymouth Coupe then, and they had the hood up on it. And he couldn't do much damage to it because in the spring of the year where there is water holes, they weren't paved then, the roads weren't, why they'd drown that Plymouth out. So I took some oilcloth and made a long strip and I wrapped the distributor and the wires clear up to the plugs and tied it on there real solid. And Sitz was going to --- he told me afterwards, he said, "I was going to take the roller out of the distributor, so you couldn't start it." But, he had his head under there and he couldn't do much damage. And when we came out I said, "What are you doing there?" And he beat it to his car. Well I went out and we jumped in and it wouldn't start, and so I jumped out and raised the hood and all the damage he did, he'd pulled the wire out of the coil, and I grabbed that back and went back down to my dad's place and changed clothes. And we come

around Riverside Drive, I kinda smelled a mouse as I come through town, they might try to stop us, you know. Well, we come out in the lead of them.

GEORGIA: They weren't very smart, or they'd have been out there at Urizars at the bridge, you see, but they didn't. John had always bought his gas at the Yellowstone Garage and they thought he'd stop there for gas as he was leaving town.

JOHN: I got gas up at Bennett's.

GEORGIA: But we got it at Bennett's and went down Riverside Drive and we got the drop on them, and we got a head start.

JOHN: The lights began to show up pretty fast and I told Georgia if we can get to that mud hole, I know how to get through and they don't, and that's about as far as they got.

GEORGIA: They didn't get through the mud hole.

JOHN: We did get a big shivaree though later, I don't know a week or ---

GEORGIA: Just two or three days later.

JOHN: We just had a cabin; the room wasn't as big as this. One-room cabin, and it was loaded with people, and they wanted to go to Voltage and dance.

GEORGIA: The schoolhouse was too crowded.

JOHN: At that time I why I had that dance hall at The Narrows.

GEORGIA: The old store had a good dance hall in it.

JOHN: And Marcus Haines and Edna they was both musicians, you know. Edna could play the piano, and Marcus accordion, and Sid

Comegys could play a violin, and Georgia played a ---

GEORGIA: She had a saxophone. Georgia Comegys had a saxophone.

JOHN: --- saxophone, I guess. I was too poor --- most of the people bought whiskey to pass out at weddings that I was ever to, but Georgia and I was too poor to buy whiskey, so I got three or four gallons of wine. We had to load Pete Caldwell, him and Myrtle was at the dance, and Ted and Mildred they was there, and we had to load Ted. Myrtle just took Pete home and he fell down in the door, so she just drug him in the front room and got a quilt and threw over him and went to bed. It didn't bother her much. But Ted and Mildred was feeding cattle, and Georgia and I used to meet them. They had to take the team and wagon and go down the lane. They was living at Myrtle's old home up on what they called Chapman place later. And Mildred would be driving the team, and Ted riding on the back end of the wagon. I guess they wasn't on speaking terms for about a week maybe.

PAULINE: Sounds like a good time was had by all.

GEORGIA: Oh yeah, we even had some truck drivers stop to see what was going on. And they had to go to bed on a pile of mattresses that we had in the corner of the dance hall.

JOHN: I went and got a mattress so we could put them to bed.

GEORGIA: Well there was a bunch of mattresses there and you guys put them to bed on some mattresses in the corner.

JOHN: I left a gallon of wine right up by the musicians, and just told everybody to help themselves, you know, and somebody did a

pretty good job. Ted got so happy, he was dancing with Georgia, and he'd step on her foot about every other step.

GEORGIA: It didn't make any difference where I'd put my right foot down; Ted would hit it ever time.

JOHN: He's awful low now, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah, I heard he's really bad.

JOHN: I went to the hospital to see him when they first brought him back, and I met Homer Morrison, and he said, "He won't know you." But we worked together in 1923, between Klamath Falls and Keno, worked horses. And you've heard of the Lamb boys, the Lamb Ranch. Well George Lamb and, by golly, what's that Lamb --- George Lamb comes and sees us about once a year.

GEORGIA: Yeah. I don't remember what the other fellow's name was.

JOHN: I know him well, but I can't ---

GEORGIA: It's was a Mr. Hoover that came with George all the time --- since I've known him.

JOHN: But his brother died several years ago, but George is 85 I think, when he was here last year. That's the last time he has been here.

GEORGIA: He hasn't been here for a while.

JOHN: He lives in south of Klamath Falls there. I don't think he was ever married.

PAULINE: You used to run horses quite a bit. Gather the ---

JOHN: Oh yes.

PAULINE: What we call "wild ones" today?

JOHN: You see, my dad --- they was, Grandma Dunn had horses, and Ted Dunn, and Billy Dunn, and Frank Dunn. My dad had all their horses on the shares, they run on the desert. There weren't many fences those days, you know. And in the spring of the year we'd gather those horses and put stallions with them. And Rankin and I, that was our job to herd them when we got them gathered. And we'd bring them in, and had a small field we'd put them in at night, and we'd herd them out in the daytime, you see.

PAULINE: You'd bring them in every night?

JOHN: Yes.

GEORGIA: During the breeding season.

PAULINE: During breeding season.

JOHN: Yes. You see, over the hill from our home where that cabin was is a big rim rock on the west side, and there's an opening up there in the rim rock. Of course that made a gate too, by --- put a gate in there. And we used to take our horses every morning a mile or two over there. And there was a big, natural big rim rock, oh a mile or so long, a big circle, and it was just the south end that was open, you see. And we used to herd them horses until, well they'd get all of the colts branded up. They divided up.

The Dunn's --- Ted and Frank used to ride out there. Elmer was too small them days to ride with us. I wasn't very big, but I had to ride. My dad would scold me --- I had a little saddle with

wooden stirrups, you've seen them, and I wouldn't wear my shoes. I damn near fell off a time or two. Sometimes we had to --- the horses was wild and sometimes they'd try to break out on us, you know, and I'd skin my toes up. And my dad would scold me because I wouldn't wear my shoes. He finally said, "Why is it you won't wear your shoes, you're getting your toes all skinned up?" Well, I says, "I can't hold my stirrups with my shoes on, but I can hook my toes over the front of the stirrups, and I can hold my stirrups."

I had an idea why I was doing it. I went bare footed so much, they was just as tough as a pair of shoes. That was Rankin and my job after we got the horses settled down. Ted Dunn and the boys used to stay a day to two till we kind of got them used to herding there. But Ted Dunn, he always played he was sick, and he felt ---for me to herd horses with of a morning, we'd --- at noon, a couple of fellows would come out to relieve us. And Ted he'd lay in the shade of a big rock, and I'd have to herd the horses, and I didn't like it very well. He'd groan about being sick, but as soon as we got some relief, why he could ride faster than I could almost going to dinner. He had a pair of spurs, big rowels in them, and I just come back from turning a bunch back, and I was mad because I didn't get any help from him, and I could of drug him to death, I guess. But he's kinda laying on his mecate, had it out along side of him. He had a big hair mecate, and I eased it out away from him. He was on his belly, and his spur rowels

was sticking up, and so I took several turns around that spur rowel, and I got back and I get a little rock like that and thumb it at the horse's nose ---

GEORGIA: See, he had his saddle horse right there along side of him.

JOHN: And the old horse would jerk his head, and I'd get another rock and flip at his nose, and pretty quick he jerked his head pretty big, and jerked Ted. 'Course Ted wasn't long getting them turns off of that spur either. But I never said nothing, I just pretended nothing had ever happened. Well, I got mad, you see, and I was, oh maybe 10 or 12 years old, big enough to know better, but ---

PAULINE: How old was Ted?

JOHN: Ted?

PAULINE: Yeah.

JOHN: Well, let me see.

PAULINE: Was he older than you, or was he ---

JOHN: Ted Dunn was a man in --- he died here, I don't know how many years ago, but he was getting pretty close to 90 wasn't he?

GEORGIA: He was in his ---

JOHN: Way up in his 80's.

GEORGIA: Way up in his 80's when he died. It's been a long time since he died, I don't remember.

JOHN: It's been over 20 years, 25.

GEORGIA: Probably 25 years ago.

JOHN: But Frank was a dandy fellow, he was Elmer's dad. Ted never did get married. He lived with his mother on that place, and he lived there until Georgia and I leased it.

We took a stage line when we left the refuge, from Crane to Blitzen, for a year, and that ---

SIDE B

PAULINE: Just to get this started again here. Just to get this on this side of the tape. You and Georgia took a stage line from where?

JOHN: From Crane to Blitzen.

PAULINE: In 1939?

JOHN: Yes, 1st of July we started, and we had it for a year. We run the Squaw Butte state cattle for a year after that. That was in 1940, yes.

GEORGIA: Through '40, to July '41.

JOHN: And I was with them a year. But Ted always --- Ted got to be a real good pal of mine. Nobody liked the old feller much, and I was just good to him. Used to help him brand. And he'd go on a toot up here at town, and we'd --- he'd even leave horses in the corral, and a dog tied up, and when we saw he'd left after a day or so we'd go over to see if everything was all right, you know. We'd turn his horses out and feed his dog up, and he kinda took a liking to me, I guess. He told me a time or two, he says, "You know," he always said, "you see, when I get ready to retire, you

see, I'd like to have you and Georgia lease it from me." Well, that's what I wanted anyhow, because I didn't like it at Squaw Butte. Those straw bosses didn't know whether they was going ahead or backin' up really when it come to running stock. But I got along with them all right. I run them off from over to Buena Vista once. I told them their home was at Squaw Butte, and my home was over at Buena Vista. I had to move the cattle to Buena Vista and experiment with them, and I knew what to do, and I was doing my job. And R. G. Johnson was the big boss. He was a fine fellow. He used to come and stay with us for sometimes a week.

GEORGIA: He was a professor from Oregon State.

JOHN: And he'd help me buckaroo. He knew something about stock, you know. Platt was the straw boss out there. Bob Frichtel, I liked him pretty good. He was under Platt. But Platt didn't know hardly how to get on a horse. He didn't have much sense either about running cattle. We laid away \$500 on the stage line, and we worked for the Squaw Butte outfit there for a year and we'd spent \$140 dollars of our savings, when we got word from Ted that he wanted us to lease his ranch. We only had \$360, and a car that wasn't paid for. But we had a two-wheeled trailer that we'd had on the stage line, and I wasn't long getting it loaded up, and we moved over to Ted's.

He'd made up his mind that he wanted to stay until the 22nd of July, so we left part of our stuff there, and I got a job from Herb Fawcett. They was building road out there, and camped in

Catlow Valley, and putting in bridges and working the road over to Field Station from Catlow Valley, up --- they call it Long Holler [Long Hollow] I believe --- the canyon. Then we came back and we stayed there. Well, we sold out 20 years ago.

PAULINE: Now this is the place that's on the east of the refuge headquarters?

JOHN: Yeah, east of the bird refuge.

PAULINE: On that kind of a peninsula there?

JOHN: On the Princeton road there. A big --- well the kids out there now have got part of it painted --- well Georgia and I painted once, and we painted white I think, and it's still painted white. They got part of it painted, and Fred put a new roof on it. We roofed it once.

PAULINE: That's where Houck's live now?

JOHN: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Yeah. I wanted to be sure I had the right place in my mind.

JOHN: Yeah, Fred came up here the other day. I hadn't saw him for a year and a half. He was sure a fine fellow. I worked for him almost steady. He'd get hired help, and some of them was pretty good, but they wouldn't stay very long, and others would like the beer over at Princeton too well.

GEORGIA: This was when we were stage line, we had good roads. We used to get 50 cents a barrel for bringing in barrels when we found them around, to the ---

PAULINE: What kind of a pickup, is this a Ford pickup?

GEORGIA: Yeah, it's a Ford.

JOHN: We put about 65,000 miles on that Ford in a year, on that stage line.

PAULINE: Between Crane and Blitzen.

GEORGIA: Yep.

JOHN: Well, Burns --- we came to Burns ---

GEORGIA: Well about every other trip at least, we had to come to Burns to pick up freight for different people.

JOHN: We hauled all of the Rye Smyth's freight from Crane to Diamond for two bits a hundred.

GEORGIA: And we helped brand out there in Catlow on weekends, because we spent our weekends at Blitzen.

JOHN: This is when we wanted to cut that stallion, and he was pretty wild, and he was in the corral and I was a horseback, and I took my rope down to rope him. I just got a loop built and he jumped the corral and I roped him anyhow. And he was on one side of the corral, and I was on the other. But we managed to hold him and get him in and work on him.

GEORGIA: We always could collect a dog. They weren't ours, but then they lived with us when we were at Blitzen.

JOHN: That was the old dog that I liked. I'd feed him cracklings here. I fed him cracklings. We lived in the store building that winter at Blitzen.

... (Looking at pictures.)

GEORGIA: They didn't have Section Five out here then.

JOHN: They had the Experiment Station out here. That's where they had when I worked there.

... (Looking at pictures.)

PAULINE: When you say she outlawed, that means that she wouldn't stay where she was supposed to stay, she'd go home again, or does it mean that she was too wild to ride?

JOHN: No. They tried to break her to ride and she'd stampede with them, and they was scared of her. They couldn't do anything with her.

GEORGIA: They couldn't stay with her that was all, but she wasn't anything, she wasn't wicked at all.

PAULINE: She just needed somebody that ---

GEORGIA: Just somebody that knew horses.

JOHN: Well, she'd stampede with them, you know, and they didn't know how to double a horse. Verne Bossuot and I, we taught her how to double.

... (Looking at pictures.)

JOHN: And I traded that horse that Georgia's riding to Ted Dunn for a 30-30 rifle, and he outlawed on Ted, and he was so gentle. Ted would ride him down in the field a ways, and he'd take a notion to go home, and he'd just go home with him. Gosh, Georgia rode him ---

GEORGIA: I rode him many miles all by myself.

JOHN: He was an awful nice horse to ride, a good traveler. But

after one application, he didn't get to the house with me; he was all right after that. When he got some wire in his tail one time, he bucked with Georgia. I was riding a green horse that had only been rode two or three times, and we was about 10 miles from home, that old horse was awful goosey in the wire. He got a little string of this ---

GEORGIA: John says I'd ought to ditch that picture. We'd branded all that day.

PAULINE: Looks like you're tired.

JOHN: I had that rabbit fever, you see, and I was awful bad health for years.

PAULINE: That tularemia?

JOHN: Yes, there was no cure for it then when I got it. My heart would swell and rub on my ribs and got a sore on it. They sent me home to die. I said, "Ah, I'll outlive you." And I've outlived all but Doc Campbell. Boy, he was a good surgeon at one time.

PAULINE: Yes, he's a pretty special person.

JOHN: He operated on me for a double hernia. And since that rabbit fever, I cured myself, I guess, because I got to where I couldn't hardly eat anything, you know. And I've had whiskey to drink ever since I was a baby. The buckaroo outfits always had whiskey. So I felt awful tough one morning down there at the ranch, and I had a bottle, and so I went and got it and I took a big drink and sat it on the table and sat down. And pretty quick I took another big drink, and I began to feel a little better. So

I took another one and my upper lip got kinda stiff, you know, and by golly I ate a little breakfast. And so I always take a couple drinks before breakfast, little drinks out of a bottle, you know.

And so Campbell operated on me, and the next day he came in to see how I was. And I said, "I'm fine," I said, "but can't I make it to the bathroom?" The bathroom wasn't any farther than that door. "No, John." Well that morning I got me a pain, and little Suzie, you knew her, she brought me a bedpan. And well I was cut open on both sides, I had a double hernia, and this one was --- Smith operated on it when I was 18, and it busted over the top. It was adhesions, and he says, "No, you can't go to the bathroom, John." And I had to get her to bring me that bedpan to me twice, and it hurt me very much to get on it, you know. Then you don't know but what you might make a mess. And I said, "Well, Campbell, I'm going to go to that bathroom, I'm not going to get a bedpan any more. I'd rather mount some old cranky horse than to mount one of them." "Well," he said, "all right, I'll let you go to the bathroom, but you got to get a nurse to help you. Well, all right now, anything else?" And I says, "Yes, can I have some whiskey around here?" "You sure can." He said, "Have you got any?" I said, "Yes, there's a bottle in the suitcase, but they are shooting pills down me, and giving me shots, and I didn't think I'd better drink any. I didn't know whether it would mix or not." "Well," he says, "I'll put it on your chart, and I'll allow you a plenty." He did, he allowed two and one half ounces every

two hours.

PAULINE: And that's what kept you going?

JOHN: And that was a plenty, but most of the time I only took three drinks a day, at two and a half ounces, or little two ounce, and then half of another one. And that head nurse there was a Nazarene up there, and she didn't like it very much, I don't think. She wasn't very talkative. If I turned my light on and I wanted a drink, I had a watch, I knew what time it was, and she'd bring it to me. And there was a desk right along side of my bed, and she'd just hold it in her hand like that, like I'd ought to jump up and grab. And I said, "Just set it on the desk, I'll get around to it pretty quick." But she got a little friendlier. She got used to it, and ---

I got Georgia in trouble. I'd been drinking my quota that day because I felt tough, you see. And Georgia come at 2:30, and I knew I was allowed another drink, and when I need a drink I just bleach out and makes me feel kind of weak, you know. And so I said to Georgia, I'd been on the blink that day. I said, "Would you mind going and getting me another drink." And she went in and told the nurse that I wanted another drink, and she blew her top at Georgia and said, "What's the matter with John, he's drinking heavy." She said, "Well, his blood pressure is awful low for one thing." And then she thought a nurse had squealed, and she scolded her about that.

GEORGIA: Who told you that?

JOHN: There was a little short nurse there from Lakeview, and I used to be around Lakeview a lot too when I was a young man, and the Irishman and I always got along fine. Everybody over there and I did, and she knew a lot of the old timers that I knew. And she wasn't my nurse, but she'd drop in and see how I was, and talk a little if she had the time. And so she happened to be in there and this head nurse started to do something, and she said to Georgia, "I'll get it for him." Told that nurse they kept it in the refrigerator, and she just went and got a water glass and filled it half or two thirds full, and says, "I peeked in at John a while ago and he looked awful pale, we'll just give him a good ---" But I just sipped on it, you know. But after that though, that nurse she got so she could talk. Now I see her, she still speaks to me. I know her husband.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

GEORGIA: I told her, "Gee, I've lived with him for 30 years, and I know when he has low blood pressure and stuff, I don't have to have these nurses tell me." And that got them off the hook. Nobody told me that he was sick, I just knew.

JOHN: I didn't know it would --- I just figured they'd give her a couple ounces, two and a half ounces.

PAULINE: Did you and John ever have children?

GEORGIA: No.

JOHN: We've tried to adopt.

GEORGIA: No. We've --- like he said, we tried to adopt but he

was 11 years older than I, and to hear these people talk, he was just practically in the grave.

JOHN: Well, I was 40 years old ---

GEORGIA: Yeah, he was 40, you see.

JOHN: --- at the time. But we figured we could raise a couple of kids, and we liked kids.

PAULINE: Well you could have, you could have.

GEORGIA: And then we went out of our way --- we almost got three all in a bundle. We had a friend up here, and she had a nephew or a brother, or somebody down in Arizona, and the authorities took the kids away from them. They were a couple of inexperienced kids and they weren't getting along. And they had a 3 year old going on 4, and a 2 coming 3, and a new baby, 6 weeks, and they were up for adoption. And we were all packed and ready to go, and we got a notice from the Arizona authorities that they had started school for kids of that kind, and they were training them how to budget their money, and budget their time, and look after the kids. And they raised those kids, and did a good job of it we found out. So I don't know, maybe it was good, and maybe it was bad ---

PAULINE: Well, it's just the way life is.

GEORGIA: But we've enjoyed other people's kids. Always had some around.

PAULINE: Well I didn't think that you had, but I had to ask to be sure.

JOHN: Those Griffin kids, we practically raised them.

PAULINE: I saw a picture of Arlene.

GEORGIA: We've always had kids around us.

JOHN: Les and Levina left one winter, and left them living down at old Billy Dunn's old place, and they was living there and Allen he had an old car, and they was Mary --- what was the middle girl's name?

GEORGIA: Hazel.

JOHN: Arlene.

GEORGIA: No, Hazel. Arlene was the one that we called "Babe". She was the ---

JOHN: Oh, Babe, yeah. And boy I'd ---

...

JOHN: I would have just gave anything if we could have adopted the little one, Hazel. She was just a little tot, you know, and they bached. But she used to have to get up in a chair to make bread and stuff, you know. And she helped me buckaroo. She'd rode ever since she was big enough to walk. And by golly she was good help, always agreeable, helped Georgia around the house, you know. Oh, we see her every once in awhile. She married a Wenick.

GEORGIA: She married a Wenick. Benny Wenick, and they live in Boise.

PAULINE: When did you retire and come into town? About 1960 --- '65?

JOHN: Oh.

GEORGIA: About '63 we leased the place.

JOHN: It's '68 honey, wasn't it?

GEORGIA: No, we leased it in '63 to Cliff. And then we had to take it back again.

JOHN: Oh, we leased it about '60, because it was '63 when I had to take it back.

GEORGIA: Well anyway, it was in the '60's and we came to town. But then we sold it to Fred and we worked out there for 20 years while he paid for it. Went back and forth.

PAULINE: Fred?

GEORGIA: Briggs.

PAULINE: Briggs.

GEORGIA: Fred Briggs from Lakeview.

PAULINE: Well, don't Houcks live there now?

GEORGIA: Yeah.

PAULINE: Okay. But Fred Briggs still owns all of it?

GEORGIA: Oh, yes.

PAULINE: Okay.

GEORGIA: The Houck kids have been working for him.

JOHN: He picked me up about two weeks ago, and we made the rounds. We had a good visit, and then he stayed for supper.

GEORGIA: Fred was a wonderful person; we never had a bit of trouble. Lots of people in this country have sold their stock, you know, and ranches and had to take them back over, and over. But he always made all of his payments on time.

PAULINE: Well, you've lived down around that lake there for all

these years. How do you feel about the fact that it is so high now? What do you think when you go down there and see all that water?

JOHN: Well, it hurts my feelings for everybody. That old house is still out of water; the water will have to raise about four feet yet to get up to the buildings and corrals. But it isn't only just Fred that is washed out, they are all washed out, you know. But Fred is still holding the places. I sold him a place in Virginia Valley too. There's only 1,200 acres here around the lake, and there isn't over 40 of it out of water now.

GEORGIA: And we own old Voltage out there. And it's practically ---

JOHN: Well it's all under water except where the store was. Well the reason we owned Voltage though, when Culver died, Conley Marshall was administrator. And Fred told Conley he'd like to buy that Voltage property. There is only about 30 acres. And he had a bad year, loggers have bad times too. And he let it ride and almost forgot about it. One day, he said, "John, I wish you would buy that Voltage property, because I feel pretty bad, I haven't paid Conley a thing." And he said, "I feel bad about it, and I haven't got the money to buy it." So Georgia and I drove over to Drewsey, and Conley had already put it in Fred's name up at the courthouse. But we paid Conley off. And then when Fred come we went up and changed it to, it's in Georgia and my name. Everything we got is in both our names, except the dog. She isn't

in either one of our names. (Laughter)

PAULINE: The dog is a free spirit.

... (Unrelated conversation.)

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