

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #121 - Side A

Subject: Harry Loggan

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: 1972

Interviewer: James Baker

Release Form: No

HARRY LOGGAN: ... abstract company there. He had been a county official at one time. ... county clerk at one time. He had the abstract. And I think maybe Archie McGowan who had the Burns Garage. And probably Archie, and probably Hank Levens, and I don't know, about ten people there that contributed money. But they were business people. So that might have promoted part of it too. And I don't know, at the time I didn't realize that there was a feeling against the company. But I think probably there has been.

JAMES BAKER: You mentioned that the town, that the company put in the water and sidewalks. I heard they built some houses.

HARRY: Yeah. The water and sewer in town was built by the town of Burns ... at about the same time. They went out near the mill, where the town of Hines is now, and they put in streets and sewers and built houses.

JAMES: I see.

HARRY: They built houses and then sold them. But they had them all built. They went in there and they actually had a firm, can't think of the name of it anymore, a Portland firm came in there and built these houses. Really nice houses. They originally planted trees and put in city water for them.

JAMES: Isn't that something.

HARRY: Yeah.

JAMES: I'm really surprised. Seriously, I'm surprised.

HARRY: And they built, you noticed there right in the middle of Hines, out toward the valley, a big old concrete structure there.

JAMES: Uh huh.

HARRY: That was to be a hotel.

JAMES: Oh.

HARRY: I don't remember who the people were that --- I just remember ... that were building the town. But that hotel, they got it up that far, and in the meantime, the hotel in Burns got going, and it was quite a nice hotel, and so it was never completed.

JAMES: That old concrete structure that sits out there?

HARRY: Yeah.

JAMES: Really strange place.

HARRY: Was to have been a hotel.

JAMES: That is strange. Yeah, there is spray paint all over it now, where kids ... you know.

HARRY: And this may have contributed a little more to the hard feelings out in Hines. Built out there by the mill rather than --- of course, Burns had thought, you know, that they would grow. And they did, they were probably a town of 1500, 1800 in the '20s. I don't think it was much bigger than that anyway.

JAMES: Uh huh.

HARRY: And the mill probably brought them up to around 3000. But the Hines structures all been built up there, there would probably been a town of 5000 or 6000. And I suppose that caused some feelings. But that should have been more between the two cities ... commerce, so I don't know.

JAMES: I'm getting ... Very curious. Quite an interesting story.

HARRY: And the people that settled out at Hines, were primarily foreigners, you want to call them.

JAMES: Yeah.

HARRY: They were the new people that came from Mississippi and Minnesota.

JAMES: Uh huh.

HARRY: But I never noticed any feelings between the cities. The old-timers and new ones, they just mingled right in. Eastern Oregon towns you always get acquainted in three or four weeks anyway, you know. We used to always go to the dances, and those people just seemed like part of the ... right away.

WOMAN: ...

HARRY: Oh, we might. ...

JAMES: Sure do.

HARRY: Yeah, if you would please.

JAMES: You know there is another thing that I would like to find out about is, and that is if I get the ... conflict in the way you reported it, had to do partly with the location of Hines, outside to the south, and I guess you could say south and west.

HARRY: Uh huh.

WOMAN: ...

JAMES: Not for me, thanks. And that was land that was owned by the Hotchkiss' and who was the other family. You were mentioning why the town was out there.

HARRY: Voegtly owned the land right adjacent to Burns, right south and adjacent to Burns, where it would have been the logical place, where they would have liked to have built the houses, this firm that came in from Portland. But they couldn't get together on a price, so eventually --- Now Hotchkiss owned land just to the east. I'm not sure if they owned any land where the mill proper went. But anyway, the mill proper, they were able to purchase that. But land just to the east of that, Hotchkiss had it. They couldn't get together on a price to buy that. So, it kind of left them the only place to go to build the houses was where they finally did, you know. Of course, the mill, as near as I know, the main reason the mill went out there was because of the hot springs. I don't know if you are aware of or not.

JAMES: No, I'm not.

HARRY: Have you seen the swimming pool there?

JAMES: Yes.

HARRY: Well, that swimming pool was built over, or right adjacent to a hot water spring.

JAMES: Oh boy.

HARRY: And ---

JAMES: That's quite a treat.

HARRY: And this spring was enough, so by putting the water into the millpond, they were able to build a pond. It's an artificial pond there, and the water was enough to keep it, and it was warm enough so that by putting the water back to the dry kilns, and the steam condensation, plus the hot water from the springs, it very, very seldom freezes over. I guess it has frozen once or twice.

JAMES: They could keep the mill going year-round.

HARRY: Yeah.

JAMES: Of course, they couldn't cut year-round, but they could work year-round.

HARRY: Yeah, yeah, they could. And I think that was the main reason for locating it out there, was this source of water to make their millpond.

JAMES: I see. That's a good enough reason.

HARRY: And in those days, you had to have a millpond. Nowadays most of them are doing away with a millpond, you know. But that was --- it was a little out of the way, they had to haul the trees further than if they'd have put it up in the town.

JAMES: In Seneca --- oh, I see, in town.

HARRY: No, in town. But they didn't want Seneca because of the deep snow there in the wintertime, so they wanted Burns. But ... probably another three miles they hauled the logs for what they could have if they went into Burns. They could have had ... supply for the water.

JAMES: We ...

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