

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #127 - Side A

Subject: Jane Drewitt - (No Tape)

Place:

Date: April 10, 1972

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

(Note: The following is a summary of the conversations held.)

Jane Drewitt was born in Drewsey in 1882. Harrison Abernathy was her father. Elizabeth South, her mother, died when she was only five months old. Her father raised the children, Jane and her brother.

Her father's place was about three miles from school, and they rode horseback. "We rode everything from horses and cows to the pigs," Jane recalls with a smile. "Sometimes they dumped us off too."

Jane remembers when Drewsey was called Gouge Eye. When asked if she remembers when they changed the name, and if the citizens seemed to care, she said they didn't seem to mind.

Jane's father used to play for dances. He was a fiddler and sometimes they went as far as Weiser, Idaho to play for a dance. Jane usually went along.

Jane recalls looking out of the window of her house one day as a child, and seeing a bear at the edge of the cornfield. But she didn't recall the bears ever being a problem to livestock, etc.

Jane remembers Drewsey as a beautiful place to live. They lived in the cove along the river, and she says it was lovely.

Her father was not in good health --- he suffered from consumption, so the children sometimes stayed with relatives, and with Jane's Grandmother South.

Jane lived on a ranch all her life. She is now 90 years old and lives at the Burns Nursing Home. Her son, Orville "Rusty" Drewitt lives in Burns and operates Rusty's Round-Up Drive-In Restaurant.

When asked if she remembers her first automobile ride, she said yes. Asked if she liked it or if she was scared she said, "I've never been afraid of anything," and she liked her ride very much.

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