

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #132 - Side A/B

Subject: Ida Whiting

Place:

Date: 1972

Interviewer: James Baker

IDA WHITING: ... I came with my mother here. She married Porter Sylvester and lived up the river here. And my brother was Arthur Turner, and I am Ida Turner, and my sister Lillian Turner married a fellow by the name of Woods. She lived out in ... California.

And my mother married Sylvester the last of November. She married him in Nevada City, Nevada, just below Reno. And they came down to the Oregon House and got my brother and I, and brought us up here. And Sylvester lived about 10 miles up the river. We came to Burns, Arthur and I and my mother, and stayed all that winter. And my brother and I went to school here in Burns. Mrs. Dr. Marsden was the teacher. We went to school here that winter and the next --- until 1887-1888. Then my mother left Sylvester and we started out for ourselves, I was 14.

So I went down to Dickensons, that was an old couple that had just moved in here and lived up the river, and I asked them if I could stay there and work for my board, because my mother was on top of the mountain over here, and there was no communications at all, it must be 25-30 miles up there. So I didn't have any home or no place to go, no way to get any message to my mother. So I walked down here to this Dickensons and asked them if I could stay there and go to school, and they said that I could. So I was there about 3 or 4 days and they got word that some of their folks had died at Woodburn, and that they wouldn't be able to keep me.

So I got their boy --- first I walked down to the Mel Fenwick's. They was an old couple, about 3 miles from there, and asked them if I could stay there and work for my board and go to school. And they said that I could. So I got this boy from the Dickensons to take me down there. So I stayed there then off and on and went to school for 2 years there. They only had their schools every 3 months, had about 6 months of school through the year, and sometimes they didn't have that, just till their money held out. So I stayed there and went to school and worked for my board.

Then I moved into Burns and stayed with different people and worked for my board and went to school. My mother took up with her stepfather. Then she married this Frank Mattney. He took up a homestead, what we called, it was up towards the mountains in the hills, up there just above Emigrant Creek about 8 miles. He took up this homestead. So he started in a cattle ranch. She milked cows and made butter and sold it, and they had their hogs and their beef, whenever they could. And we brought it to Burns and sold it. Well he was, Frank Mattney, was the stepfather, and he took up his homestead there and he proved up on that, and my mother took up a desert claim joining his. He took another desert claim over on Yellowjacket Creek, over across the way where the Clemens' caused this big dam to be filled where they stocked the ... with fish. And they proved up on all of that.

And then she left him and bought a ranch on her own out on Spring Creek. It was a creek that run into Emigrant Creek. So she milked cows and sold butter and all that stuff. Packed it in the spring in deep crocks, and moved it out in the fall and sold it.

When I was up there before she moved down there though, why I helped my mother milk and I took the team and drove to Burns with the butter and the eggs and the meat, and whatever there was to sell, and sold that myself. It was about 35 miles up there. And sometimes I'd drive down and stay all night in Burns. And come back up there

the same day, and sometimes I wouldn't stay in town. Finally a fellow by the name of George Waters wanted me to come and stay and take care of his wife in Burns here. And so I did. And from then on, why I stayed with him and went to school in Burns, and done all that there was to be done around the home. Well I worked along like that and I married George Whiting then in 1907, April 22nd. My first boy was born in 1908. And my first child was Herbert Whiting and he was born in 1908. My second child was Lottie Whiting Bossuot, and she was the second one. And the third one was Hilton Whiting, the one that is out here now on the ranch. And Wayne Whiting was born in 1914. And ... was born in 1918, she was ... Then the next one was Audrey, and she was the youngest one, she was born in 1921.

All the while, we bought this ranch out here. Frank Whiting helped him to get it first. It was land that was, when the Colonization Company came in here, they took every other section, as I understood it for building roads. And then Frank Johnson was at the head of the Colonization Company and he put Jimmy Donegan, he was a helper that worked for him, and acted under Frank Johnson. So that's where we got our home out here.

And our first child was Herbert, as I say, and he was 7 and he started out and went to school out to Poison Creek for about a month, I guess. And then he finished his school here in Burns that year. The next child was Lottie. She would have been 6 in October, and she started in going to school when she was 5. She rode behind him on this horse, 3 miles out home. We had this little saddle and she rode right behind him.

And then the next boy, when he started, why we had a little one-horse buggy, and they drove that into school here, left it here at Ella Luckey's. And then the next one, about the time Wayne started in, why they had an old Ford car that they drove. And they drove that on then until, well they came in the rest of their school years. They all graduated here

from Burns High School except Herbert and Audrey was the only ones. The last year or the year before, she went and took a test and passed high enough to get her high school education, so she's got it.

But this older boy that never got any more education other than 3 years of high school, he started in with Morrison-Knudsen, a construction deal. So he helped to build the Alcan Highway. He worked under Morrison-Knudsen, but he always had men under him. And ... Those were two of the largest deals that he was on with Morrison-Knudsen. He went over into Paducah, Kentucky, and they put up a big construction deal there. I think the whole thing was about 40 acres under that, and he supervised these men to build all that. I mean build roads around that. The last deal was, for him, that he worked down here at Redding and one of the men was drunk and he had to take his place to drive this piece of machinery. He started down this hill, it moves everything ahead of us, this piece of machinery, and they had never perfected it enough, because when it was going downhill, or if it had a head start, they had no way of stopping it. The brakes wouldn't hold. So he started down then, big rocks and trees everywhere, and that took off and went right down through all of it and hit a tree and killed him. So that was in 1952.

And Wayne was the next one that passed away. And he bought himself a new trailer house and hadn't tested it out to see that they could turn on the heat. So they lit a match, and the room had filled with gas, and it all went up in flames, and he lived for about a month and then passed away.

I had 4 children left, 3 girls and a boy left. Now as far as there being anything great --- We were pioneers like the rest of them, just like Ella Luckey.

And I was 23 I guess when I finally got married to George Whiting. But in all that time, there was just one time out of all that time that I was gone for any length of time. I went down and stayed down in Marysville down where my grandmother lived. Now, that's

what you wanted to know, about those people, too?

JAMES BAKER: Uh huh.

IDA: Well, she was married in Providence, Rhode Island to Ben Clark, and they had these 2 boys, Ben and Dan. And as they were out in this boat, this Mr. Clark and another man, and they had put on gum boots to wear, and the boat capsized and pulled them into the water naturally, and their boots filled with water and they sank and drowned right there. So they were kind of colonizing California then, on account of the gold strike ...

So they sailed a ... and my grandmother was one of them that they took, with these two little boys. They sailed around the Cape then and landed in San Francisco, and there she met Mr. Burroughs and married him. And instead of stopping there in the Sacramento Valley with all the beautiful land and everything, they hit out for the gold rush.

So they made them a home, I'd say about 4 or 5 miles, where there was a spring, and a little enclosure around with green grass and trees all around and everything. And she stayed there and raised this family then. She had these 2 Clark boys, and then she raised 7 others. ... So you see what she had to do.

So she did all of her own canning. She did all of her own sewing. She made coats and pants and underclothes and socks and did all of those things. Besides making a garden and growing fruit trees, and berries and stuff, and canned that and dried it. They had a big upstairs in the house that they built, and she put the grapes and the berries and like that, apples and pears, and dried them by putting them on a cloth. And there were no flies up there because they couldn't get in. So she did all that, while Mr. Burroughs did the mining.

She raised about 60 turkeys. So they wanted to go to Challenge to take these turkeys to sell them. He got the neighbor to take him. And this fellow saw him take this money from the sale of the turkeys, and he was going to walk home then. It was quite a

distance. And after he had gone some distance from Challenge, why this fellow that was following him shot him and killed him. But before he died his screams brought a nearby fellow that was cutting wood, so he stayed with him until he was gone. And then he went back and told the folks and all that.

Of course there was no way to communicate, only to travel, to have somebody take you back. So then my grandmother then, with the aid of these 2 Clark boys, you see they were older, and with their help and all, why each one helped with the other one. Those children didn't have much of an education, but they could all read and write, and they could with their arithmetic, that was the main thing, and to be able to spell and to talk and to write. So they were all able to do that.

But they all scattered out then and made their own living and married, and naturally raised their own families. So that's my mother's folks. They would be the Burroughs, and the ---

My father's folks, they came from Indiana. And Grandpa Turner had been a northern soldier. So he came in then. He married this girl in Indiana, and her name was Josephine McNutt. That's the reason I tell them I'm a nut! Anyway, they came into California then after the war was over, and they drifted on ---

First though, instead of going straight across, they went around by water. Because that was when all those folks had died that tried to come over the Donner Pass. So instead of coming that way to get to the coast, why they go to the water. Now I don't know, they went down into, that big lake, that big body of water, in the southeast part of the United States. Well anyway, they went down in there and then came on around. Instead of coming across that Pass, and going into a wilderness that they didn't know anything about, so they went around by water, and then came back in.

So anyway Josephine died, my grandfather's wife, and then he re-married again.

But after he married again, he didn't have any more children. My father was the oldest, and my Aunt Mary was the next one, and then there was Grant, and then Byron.

When my mother married my father, and they went up around Taylorville in California, ... County, I think it is, why my brother ... and my sister, and then Arthur Turner was the next one, and then I was the next one. Well just before I was 6 years old, why they separated. And then he started out on his own.

They put me in the, my sister Lillian and I, in the Grass Valley Convent, Grass Valley, California. And I was there until I was 11 years old, nearly 12. I went back to my grandmother's there at the Oregon House and that year we went 3 months that was usually the run of the school year. And my sister and I rode horseback about 3 miles to the school. Until she married Sylvester, and then we came up here.

But my father's sister, Mary, she was married to my mother's half-brother, Ben Clark, and they had 4 children. And she married another fellow and they had enough to make 9. So anyway, he died and then she kept on and looked after the children and all there. And my sister married this Joe Woods there at the Oregon House, and she had 9, one set of twins. My father married ... Mitchum, and she lived ... And she married this McCord Mitchell, and they had 9. She had two sets of twins, and two of them died with, one of food poisoning, and the other one died of infantile paralysis. Now that's quite a ... around the world, isn't it?

So I wound up in Burns and I'm 88 years old and I'm not a bit ashamed of it, can't get any younger ... and do what I want to do ... If there is anything else you want to know about Allan, of course you can find it out from him down there. Allan Turner, he's my brother's boy. And then he has another boy, Dorman, over at Klamath Falls. And ... Turners down at Redding.

Are you interested in the history of Burns too, along with it? Well if I can find that

other paper that I had out here. I've got a picture of the ... that I went to school here ---  
Would you like to look at it?

JAMES: You were talking about Pete Stenger?

IDA: I was talking about Pete Stenger, and trying to show you what, the property he owned, this Pete Stenger. And how, doesn't it say they started a store here?

JAMES: Established a store again in 1883 with Martin.

IDA: Well in '74, was when Pete Stenger had gone and got these horses, as I understood, and stocked most of Oregon. And Tom Whiting went with him, and got these horses from Douglas County and brought them here. George was 2 years old when they came. So you see that they --- In my estimation, that Pete Stenger had just as much if not more to do with the town of Burns than any other person.

JAMES: It says here he was named first sheriff.

IDA: That's right, and I didn't know that until I read that. I just happened to find this piece of paper and ... just wrote that off for me, and it's old, old ... So she typed that off for me last night.

JAMES: Hilton's wife typed this paper here? What was it that she typed from? An old newspaper?

IDA: ... That old piece of paper that I found, that I've had all these years. I've been here since 1895.

JAMES: Who wrote that old paper?

IDA: Well I just don't know, it just doesn't say. But if you'd like to see that old piece when you come again, why they've got it out there and I could get it and bring it in. ...

Louie Goldenberg drove the mail, driving four horses ... toward the timber, and that was the year of the flood. Of course he drove it before that time, but that was something.

JAMES: That was the flood in '97?



IDA: That was in 1897, and the highest water was the 26th day of April. Up the river, that's when I was still up there at Sylvester's, and the water was, we got up this morning, this particular morning, and there was no water in the sloughs, there was no water, anything to be different at all. But we woke up that morning and looked out and the water was from here to the road. If you'd go up the river, you could just imagine the volume of water that was coming down there.

We had our chickens and the calves down where it was lower in the barn, and Sylvester had made this boat. A big wood boat, with the oars, and it had two seats in it. Arthur, my brother, he was about 13 then, and he rowed the boat and I went with him, and we rowed down to the chicken house and we had to get the gate open. There was 2 or 3 feet of water where the gate was. And in the barn where the chickens and the calves were, the calves' heads was just sticking out of there, and the chickens was on the roost.

So we didn't have any house for them to get into or anything, so we put them in this boat and rowed them across. We tied the calves up with sagebrush, and just let the chickens, there was no place for them, so they just roosted around any place they could.

And as I say, the 26th day of April, it was the highest water that there was. But the river, the valley narrows up ... and the rim rock there was 60 feet high anyway, and the canyon narrows up, and there was 6 feet of water right down there on the level. And that whole valley up there, my brother rowed this boat, we could row right over the tops of the fences. That would be about 4 or 5 feet. ... We rowed right over that. We didn't have any wood. So it was all driftwood coming down all the time, and posts and like that.

So he tied a rope around this brush or posts or pieces of limbs and things that way, and I'd hold on to that while he rowed the boat ... just cut them up then and made them into wood.

Well the next, that same summer, it was on June 11th, I remember that very well,

that the ground was just so you could get on it and get it planted. Sylvester had it all fixed up to plant and you never saw anything grow so in all your life as that did. The next year after that, the next summer, there was a, that's when they all went up there to what they call the ... Backbone, and they had this place they call a chute, I guess. They'd start these logs down, they had them cut a certain way, and they put them down into the river when it was high. And these men, Nick ... and George, and there was about six of them, because I remember this Nick ... he stuttered a little. ... When they came, and the river is very crooked ---

JAMES: Let me ask you a question, what was George's last name?

IDA: Whiting. Where this river makes those turns like that, it was very crooked, if you ever go up the river you'll notice how crooked it is, and these men had these ... they call them ---

#### SIDE B

--- and these logs make that turn, if there is a slough or an outlet for them to go into, why that would cause a jam of the logs. So these men would get in there on those logs and keep them steered in the right direction, and not let them get into these extra sloughs. And they got them right down here to where these high trees are right here, and that's where they had their sawmill and made lumber. So that was another thing that I thought -  
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And when they came from John Day during this high water, they couldn't come the regular highway because of this water. I couldn't say just exactly where the road that they took, because I've never thought too much about it to look it up. But George and Frank Whiting, Frank Whiting didn't live at Frank Baker's place then, he lived right on top of the hill, Frank did. And then coming toward where the Whiting land was here just up north,

why then there'd be somebody there to take that mail and bring it into Burns. And then they would take it back over there, they just rode back and forth, and back and forth, and that way they

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OLIVIA WITHERS: Didn't they swim their horses going back and forth to the hill?

IDA: No, the only time that George ever mentioned there being any horses used there, they couldn't because in carrying the mail all horses won't go as they would in the water. Some will lay down, some will roam, and it isn't every horse you can trust to go over.

Because this particular time George said this bunch of people come from John Day over, and they wanted to be piloted across through that water. And George told them that if they'd give him \$5 why he'd pilot them through. He knew where all the holes were and like that. Because they had their horses packed and had all of their belongings, their food, and their bedding, and everything like that. Well they wouldn't pay it. They said they would ride along first; they'd go across. So, not knowing where to go, they got their bedding all wet, and their food all wet, and it didn't pay at all. So I thought that was pretty good.

But this woman that was staying with us up there, a school teacher, at Sylvester's place up there --- The reason Archie McGowan and I had an argument over that, what year it was. But I know just exactly when it was because the schoolteacher was staying with my mother, and she rode horseback with us down about 5 or 6 miles to where the schoolhouse was. So the 26th day of April was the Odd Fellows dance, and they wanted to go to the dance. So they went down there to where George was, and he rowed them across to where they could be taken on into Burns. And they was married the 5th day of July in '97, so it had to be ... But of all the things that I think that ever happened in this year was that flood.

We also had a neighbor above us who had one of these little canoes. Did you ever ride in a canoe? Well, with that water a roaring like it was, and with the fences, and with the --- There was especially a spot in the river was swifter than the rest, was making those turns, you know. We had a lot of nerve to go out there, the two of us, and ride everywhere. There was neighbors, two of them, on each side of the river right opposite from us, and you had to go through those swift waters and over those fences. I don't know what my mother ...

But after the water had all gone down, Sylvester had bought an old grey horse that she rode and the milk cows would cross that water ... deep ... and the horse would have to swim, and she'd ride across on the other side to get those milk cows and back. You know, we never thought anything about it.

With the snow and all that first winter, or the second winter we was there, my brother had a little sled and we went right to the top of the mountain and made a track on down where we could slide down on that sled. Well there was rocks, and there was sagebrush, and there was everything, and we'd get going real fast, why we landed somewhere out in that. And we didn't have any overshoes, so we just wrapped gunnysacks around our legs.

And we dug holes in the ice in the river and we fished. And there was a lot of grouse up in those creeks that come in from the side of the mountain. Quite a bit of, oh a lot of brush of all kinds, and those grouse, well there was some pheasants, quite a lot of grouse. And he could shoot, so we had grouse, and fish, and pheasants and like that. And lots of rattlesnakes in the summer time. I remember one time we was haying up near the end of the field, so I was going up taking some water, and I killed a rattlesnake. Well he was dead, so I just picked it up and threw it by its tail over my shoulder, and land. Them men pretty near had a fit. So we had a lot of fun, you see.

We rode horseback everywhere, where he went I went, and we milked cows, and we did everything that the other fellow did. And I don't regret one thing that I did. All the work and everything. Our children all turned out average citizens. I don't say that they was any better, but they all enjoyed themselves and was always glad to come home. ... If I can think of anything else

--- I wish I could find that other thing about that Pete French, you know. That's what I'm really interested in, because Archie McGowan wanted, I guess he wanted it. Anyway in the history of Burns, why you'll find that the McGowan's was given a lot of credit for the building of Burns, and they can ... In my estimation, there was men here that all they had was their teams, 8 and 10 horses, and they had to go to Ontario and Huntington to bring in the produce to support the families. That's what they made their money on. Well, they're the ones in my estimation that made Burns what it is. It wasn't the man that had the money and could sit down and hire somebody to do what there was to do. They was the ones that did the work, and I think they're the ones that should be given the credit for the town of Burns, and for all the country that there is. Because they're the ones that tilled the soil and done the work, and they all raised good families, educated them as best they could.

I was just trying to think of that outfit out on the edge of town and all they lived in was just a tent. Her house was just as clean as clean could be. My mother used to bring stuff down from the ranch for them all the time. And one of those girls married a nobleman from England. So it goes to show that you can make your life, it's what you make it that counts. It isn't what the other fellow helps you make.

Like the McGowan's, they had their dollars and cents. It seems to me it's the man that did the work, and tilled the soil, and made the fences, and they had what they called -- the Whitings had that too, I think, was what they called the Creation land. They had,

well, they just took this land, you might say it was a squatter's right. They took a piece of land and made their home there. They put up their fences; they built their houses and all that sort of thing. And so it's men like that that ---

You see, some people took their homesteads, as I say, that's one way of making a home, and they had these ... where they just went there. I think a part of the Whiting home out there was a ...

JAMES: Do you know anything about that?

IDA: I don't know just how much land it has.

JAMES: When did the Whitings come into this part of the country?

IDA: In '72.

JAMES: Where did they come from?

IDA: No, '74, because George was 2 years old.

OLIVIA: My dad was 3 years old.

IDA: Well there wasn't much difference in their ages.

OLIVIA: They come to Harney City out here, they come from California.

IDA: Yeah, they came from Nevada City, that's right close to Grass Valley, and they came from Nevada City here. There was some friends of theirs that was here. Martha Adams, she was a McCloud then. Oh, by the way, that fellow that just died in Portland, it showed his picture in the paper in the Oregonian, in the 1st week or ten days. ...

OLIVIA: I didn't see it, I don't know. Of course, I never thought of it like you did. I never thought about it, was that some of the ...

IDA: Yeah, that's Frank ... Martha McCloud's youngest boy's boy. And he married this girl in Ontario. This boy had the same name that his wife's last name was. He just died of cancer last week.

OLIVIA: I heard them talking about it, but it never dawned on me that that's who it was ...

IDA: ... those horses just the same, two and four horses pulled that up there, and I expect Olivia has too, pulled the net back.

OLIVIA: I pulled the net back, but I never drove any team.

IDA: Didn't you ride a horse to pull it back?

OLIVIA: Yeah.

IDA: Well, in that picture that I've got of your old home, here's your dad right here at the side of the barn, and above his load of hay is this hole in the barn, a door. Now it looked to me that there was a rope that goes through the top of that and a pulley ring, a pulley on a rope. And the man on the other side of the barn, well he pulls that net that that hay's on the wagon, and it goes right up into that barn door and clear the full length of that barn, and that's the way you filled your barn with hay. Now isn't that the way they did it? That's the way it looked to me. But you can see how that works anyway.

JAMES: Let me ask you a question about the land. Do you feel any strong attachment to the land? Is there anything spiritual about this land?

IDA: Well I'll tell you, it's just the same as anyone else. You think a lot of your home, and you think a lot of your friends.

---     Lampshire and his folks, of course, made this big building down here now that Jacques has got now. They's trying to make out like somebody else has built that besides Jim Lampshire. And the old Walker Hall burned up and this fellow was drunk in here, and that was that. And I've got a picture of the old blacksmith shop, that Short had for so many years. You see when Tom Whiting was---

OLIVIA: Old Charlie Wilson and some of them had the blacksmith though, before Short did, didn't they?

IDA: No, he had it long before he ever. Because they were among the first that came here. And Tom Short came from Ashland here and then they built that. And right there

where Short's blacksmith shop is, there's a road that goes over the hill. It's the one that the Whitings used to travel when they first came here, and their friend had a little shack there to live in, this Martha Adams and Claude. And they built a hole, just like a tunnel I guess, and that's where they lived in, what the Whitings lived in, partly in that and partly in that house with those folks.

The schoolhouse was right over the hill there, where the Whitings went to school.

JAMES: When I was turning over the tape, you mentioned two different things that people did to make their homestead look bigger. One family, you said, put trees on their land, and another outfit had the house posts. Would you mind repeating that?

IDA: Well you fix it up to suit yourself, but as I say, I don't want to make it too bad for the grounds, but I do want to try to get it fixed up so's --- There was no water at all. So he dug a deep hole and he fixed it so that as the water came into this big hole, he had a horse here that went around, and around, and around, and a big wheel, you put in 5 gallon coal oil cans one right after the other. And that picked it up and then put it into the ditch.

JAMES: What was his name?

IDA: Ray Dickenson. But it didn't pan out because there wasn't enough water to begin with. You see, when the water table drops, why then naturally you don't get enough water to irrigate anything. And I'd like to read that other piece. Oh, I want you to read this other page. This is our Dr. Marsden that was here.

JAMES: This is the Legend of the Malheur Cave.

IDA: Did they tell you anything about Malheur Cave out here?

JAMES: Nope.

IDA: Well that's something you should know about by all means. So if you've got time to read it, you read it and then we'll go. It's really amusing.



JAMES: I'll read this into the tape then. This is a two page single spaced typed account of the Legend of Malheur Cave, being revived in a yearly meeting.

Next month, August 25th, the Burns Lodge #97, A.F. & A.M. will play hosts to the Masons from all over the Northwest in the Nation at the 25th Annual Cave Meeting to be held at historic Malheur Cave, some 58 miles southeast of Burns. It is appropriate, therefore, that the Legend of the cave be revived at this time. The following account of the Legend of Malheur Cave was written by Julian Byrd, pioneer Burns Editor, of one of the early sessions of Burns Lodge held in the Cave. At this point begins a quotation that goes for about 10 paragraphs: "Why the entrance of Malheur Cave was found barricaded by the first white men who visited was told by Captain Louie, Paiute Indian Chief, who recently died in Burns. The Legend dates back many years, and Captain Louie had it handed down to him by an aged ancestor. The Legend was given by Dr. W. L. Marsden, a Past Master of Burns Lodge, at least 30 years ago, and is retold from memory. Therefore, much of the detail is omitted because of the lapse of time and faulty memory.

The essentials, however, are as follows: Many, many years ago, long before the white man came to this country, when Malheur Lake was high and flowed out through the old river channel past Malheur Cave, and was the headquarters of the south fork of the Malheur River, a large party of Paiute warriors, and women and children were camped on the border of Malheur Lake, while the women gathered roots, herbs, and seeds to dry for winter food.

An epidemic came that was taking the lives of many, especially the children. The Paiute medicine men were unable to cope with it. There was much misery, women weeping, children dying, and mothers grumbling against the priests, and beginning to doubt their own potency.

It happened that a group of Bannocks from Idaho or other points east, were visiting

at the camp with the Paiutes. The medicine men who were becoming discredited and feared they would lose the respect and confidence of the Paiutes, in their extremity to save faces and reputations, accused the visiting Bannocks of having cast a spell over the sick persons. And so eloquently pleaded their cause, the Paiute warriors attacked the Bannocks, and all but exterminated the entire party. However, one or more at least, a small remnant of the Bannock party, escaped death and returned to Idaho. Upon being told of the cruel massacre of their tribesmen and the reason for it, the Bannock warriors assembled a large party and started for Malheur Lake with the intention of avenging the death of their fellows.

When the invading party was yet several days off, and in camp, a coyote slipped into camp and overheard the boasts of the Bannocks and of their intention to kill the entire band of Paiutes. The coyote, being a friend of the Paiutes, ran ahead of the approaching invaders and warned the Paiutes, telling them of the overwhelming numbers and advised the Paiutes to take refuge in some safe place, as they could not hope to withstand the invaders. The coyote told the Paiutes of Malheur Cave, with its living water, where even though they were less in number, they could hold out against greater odds. The Paiutes heeded the advice of the coyote, gathered up their supply of food, and camp equipment, and hurried to the Cave.

The entrance was barricaded with rocks, and although the warring Bannocks discovered the Paiutes, they were unable to keep them off. At first the Bannocks believed they could starve the Paiutes out, not knowing of the water and food supplies, and remained around the mouth of the Cave for days, sending hundred of obsidian pointed arrows into the entrance, and around the mouth of the Cave.

After many days the invading party withdrew and the coyote followed them on their eastern journey for a few days; finally returning to his Paiute friends, with the assurance

that their enemy was well out of the country, and it was safe for them to come out. The Paiutes removed only enough of the rocks to provide an exit.

And that's how the entrance of Malheur Cave was found barricaded by the first white men, and the reason for the presence of hundreds of arrowheads at its mouth, and for some distance back into the cave. And it is also why the Paiutes long ago revered the coyote and would not kill him. He was considered the wisest, slyest, and most cunning of animals.

In the days before the coming of the white man, the Paiute Indians believed in transmigration of souls to the coyote, and later to a heaven, where all were restored to youth and lived forever, midst plentiful wild game, flowers, trees, lakes and streams."

IDA: I was going to get it to this lady down here that's, well she isn't too well, and her husband isn't either, and she's tried to --- anything she can get into the newspaper and get a little something out of it to help educate her kids. So this speaks for her. But now that they are making such a fuss over killing those coyotes --- Did you read that in the paper that they want to --- The President and everybody wants to save the coyotes and all of them and live on and on. ... all the snow and your deer can't run, and you get those down in that deep snow, and goodbye to your deer. Same as a little calf or anything else. Anybody know that they --- I don't want them to kill all the coyotes, but I do think that when they run in packs they are just as bad as wolves. Just exactly.

JAMES: Mrs. Whiting was mentioning some things that I didn't have an opportunity to tape, and so I'm going to take a few minutes to add this on to her tape.

One of the things that she was remarking on the practices of some of the homesteaders who tried to maintain their claims to the land. One family who tried to show that their land was forested land, and they cut down 150 trees and planted it all the way around from the lake of their homestead in order to prove to, in order to make the claim

that they had that kind of land. Other than that, this family was a very conscientious and religious bunch of people. And there is another description of homesteaders that Mrs. Whiting gave me and that was of, I don't recall if it was Pete French or Bill Hanley, but he had lake property in which he put houseboats out on the lake in order to claim that that part of his property was homesteaded. Of course, nobody lived on them or anything like that.

Also, she mentioned quite a few things about the big cattle barons, and the little men. And she didn't have much praise for the men like Bill Hanley, but had more praise for the men who really did the work and didn't have so much money, maybe.

Well, those three things were the last comments that she gave me, but I didn't have the recorder on at the time, and wasn't able to.

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