

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #149 - Sides A & B

Subject: Historical Society Tour

Place:

Date: September 27, 1975

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

ROY HEINZ: Well, they used to have a --- the old saloon stood right in there. And it was right in there --- right close to where, because this road went right in front of it. And the blacksmith's shop was over here. And then they built a --- they did have a store just about where those big sagebrush is there. Right over here. Harry --- and I think they had a store there, and the post office was in it for a while. And then they moved down, they had the --- another store down, right down in below there. It isn't too far, where Harry Carey and them had the store there. Graves had it ---

ILDA MAY HAYES: They weren't the owners though.

ROY: Graves had it one time, I know Graves.

ILDA MAY: Long time, yeah.

ROY: And then the hotel was just about where you can see that road, like where it might turn there. The hotel was right there. And the livery barn was right opposite of it there. Then the --- they had a dance hall just between it and this saloon in here. And then there was various people lived back in here, especially during the school months. And I remember my folks lived --- we rented an old house. Or I don't know, maybe just lived there, I don't know. Right back there. Just about opposite that old building there, right across there. And Hayes lived right in here about where this new building was at one time.

ILDA MAY: Right.

ROY: Dr. Iland had her office in there too at one time. And then Lloyd Johnsons lived just right opposite, right where the, across

--- somewhere near that little old shack right there, the small one. And that's about the time that they moved the schoolhouse up here from down at --- oh down there by Ted Hayes place, off the old Campbell place.

ILDA MAY: Just say tules.

ROY: Huh?

ILDA MAY: Moved it out of the tules.

ROY: Yeah. I think I was only about 9 years old when that happened.

MAN: Roy, do you know how old the town was? How far back does this town site go?

ROY: Oh gee, it was here when I ---

ILDA MAY: Well Wally has it on his plan there.

ROY: It was here when I come. (Laughter)

ILDA MAY: 1900.

ROY: I was born right back here in the tules. (Laughter)

MARCUS HAINES: They were called tule rooters in those days.

ROY: Yeah.

MARCUS: Roy, tell the folks how Lawen happened to be here, and it's up here now.

ROY: Well they, when they put the highway in, of course ---

MARCUS: Well what was this road through here though at the time that Lawen ---

ROY: Well this was the old stage road through from --- this one right here was the old stage road that went through, and went past Saddle Butte down there, north end of it, and went right on through to Venator.

MARCUS: Now this went right down the route that we're going today.

ROY: Pretty much so.

MARCUS: Yeah, it's going down the ---

ROY: Of course we'll probably go back out the highway, because this is rough and dusty down through here.

PATTI ENGSTROM: The stage road went right through old Lawen then? Through the town?

ROY: Yeah, right here.

PATTI: Just right through the middle?

MARCUS: That's how it happened to be.

ROY: The bus is sitting on it now.

MARCUS: And Roy, it went on through Albritton where our next stop is to be.

ROY: Yeah, it went right around north end of the butte.

MARCUS: Right on into Crane, right on down the canyon, where we're going to go.

ROY: And down there just this side the butte the road used to split, you know. One went to Happy Valley, off to Anderson Valley and that country. And the other one went on this side of the butte and went through there to Crane.

MARCUS: Well now Roy, the highway then, the road was changed and this present highway was put in what year, do you recall?

ROY: This highway, let's see, was --- gee, I don't remember.

PATTI: Wally would probably know.

MARCUS: When was the highway put in between Crane and Burns, Wally?

WALLY WELCOME: What was it?

MARCUS: When was the highway put in between Crane and Burns? The present road?

WALLY: Well that one was 1919, it was started. The way the road used to go, used to go down the Hanley Lane. And then it went down and turned, you know, north, right a

couple miles from the Island Ranch, and across the Embree Bridge. Then it came right by old Lawen and then through Albritton and Harriman and Crane.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ROY: Yeah.

WALLY: That was 40 miles distance, the route that went that time, it was 40 miles.

MAN: That was the road that turns off ... that was the old sub-station.

WALLY: It turned a little bit different than that. I mean that road has been changed in there. But that's right the area. It's slanted in more.

MARCUS: Well then this road was built ---

WOMAN: Is this old Drewsey?

ROY: No, no it was Johnson. Oh, Lou Sitz owned this other place, just below there at one time.

MARCUS: This was put through in 1919 Wally?

WALLY: Yeah.

MARCUS: The present highway. And then this was left sitting high and dry, and they moved the store ---

WALLY: '29, yeah.

MARCUS: That was the only building that was moved from here, was the store.

WALLY: That was the only one. They moved it up there. And after they moved it up there, why Star Buckland was up there.

PATTI: Was this private owned land right now? Or what is this land that we're on?

ILDA MAY: It's privately owned, and I own part of it.

WOMAN: You still pay the taxes, huh?

ILDA MAY: Still pay taxes.

ROY: Jim Bamberry owns this part where we're standing now.

WOMAN: Oh, does he?

ROY: Yeah.

MARCUS: Now Ilda May, it's your turn.

ILDA MAY: My turn. All right. Well, we always had fun. So where this Jordan Hall was, and it was owned by Ed Jordan, and Zelma is his niece. And if he could go to the Weiser Festival, he could take the championship. He really was great. Not only could he play old time music, but he could play the classics. And that's the first time I ever heard classical music. He started every dance with a waltz. "Oh, Shannis O'Brien, why don't you come home?" And the boys all ran and got their girls. There wasn't any of this sitting on the bench stuff. (Laughter) And I don't want any unkind remarks, but that building there in it's natural, you see, no paint, that's my townhouse. My father built that so his children could go to school. And the schoolhouse when it was moved up here did not have this wing on the west. They just put that on there.

MAN: Which was the townhouse, that building right there?

ILDA MAY: But the big, big building there, in the natural. In the natural, big building in the natural.

ROY: I remember one time we was all out there in front of your house, I don't know, we were playing hide and go seek or some-thing, and Ruby was just a little tyke. And had an eclipse of the moon that night. And somebody said something about that, and she went in the house and we couldn't get her back out.

ILDA MAY: Well, we saw Haley's Comet from here. Everybody saw Haley's Comet. But I want to tell you just one little story about moving the schoolhouse out of the tules. At that time, the word retarded had never been used. But we had a family that lived here, and it was a big family. And we say this with respect, no disrespect because we all neighbored. But their name was Tipton, and they had some big, big boys.

When I started to school, I didn't have to read the primer because my mother was a teacher. But in my class, and with my cousin, the Tipton boys were in our class, and one was 21, and one was 22. But they couldn't read the primer.

Well anyway, when my father and two other ranchers here, they were moving the schoolhouse out of the tules, and they had this big hoist. And my father was working one of his beautiful driving teams, Old Bill. My mother wanted to go visiting, and she had to have Old Bill to go visiting up at Harney City. And so Dad just let her have it. And coming home, her conscious started to hurt her. She said, "My goodness, I shouldn't have done this." And then that night at supper she said, "Ted, I'm never so sorry of anything in my life, that I took Old Bill away from you. How in the world did you work that hoist?" And my father said, "You are forgiven." He said, "I just hitched up old Joe Tipton." (Laughter)

ROY: They jacked up that building and put timbers under it.

ILDA MAY: Sure.

ROY: Then they put plank down, and they had rollers under, between the two, between the ... And they had a team out there on a, oh a block and tackle something, way out ahead. And they pulled that building just a little at a time. And they'd, as these rollers come out behind, somebody grabbed them up and took them around and put them in front again. (Laughter)

ILDA MAY: It wasn't any team. It was either Old Bill, or Joe Tipton.

ROY: Yeah.

ILDA MAY: They were working on this thing.

WALLY: I want to tell you a story about Roy --- he's the guide on this trip. In 1926, when I was haying for the PLS Company, and we were over in Potter Swamp, and Frank Catterson who was from Lawen, had the contract for stacking the hay. And of course the cutting crew was quite a bit ahead of the stacking crew, and they'd moved in the night

before. And Roy was the stacker for Frank Catterson. And we were playing leapfrog out there. And in this --- I'll just let Roy tell you --- anyway he broke his shoulder and he couldn't stack. And Frank Catterson was really mad; he had lost his stacker. You want to tell them about that Roy?

ROY: ... head stacker. And I was --- and we got up on the stack, and --- well that was afterwards, anyway we was playing, like Wally was telling. And Forey Reed, and my brother Bill was wrestling out there, running around. I was standing there and taking it all in, and they hand this way, you know. Forey just come up and grabbed me around like that, around my arms, and Bill grabbed me by the feet, and down I went. And Forey lit on top, and it broke my shoulder. And I laid off three weeks with that, and went back and stacked hay for him the rest of the fall. If I hadn't of been left-handed, I would never have made it. (Laughter)

MARCUS: Well Ilda May and Roy, was there anybody ever shot at or hit around in here? They used to do a little shooting back in those days, can you tell us something about that?

ILDA MAY: Oh, a lot, but I'm not going to tell it.

MARCUS: Come on, come on.

ROY: The only thing near to that is, I remember one Election Day here, of course they all had plenty to drink, you know, down the street here. And of course Ed Jordan, you know, was pretty drunk and he come around and got Bailey Hayes riled up until Bailey hauled off and hit him, and he broke his little finger. The bone run out through there, and he hit Ed again, and that poked a hole in his nose right there, and he just bled like a stuck hog. (Laughter) We just come back, Lulu and Ruby and us kids. We'd been over here in the fields someplace. And I was telling --- we used to, that used to fill up with water in there, and Johnson's field in the winter, early fall, because you had a dam in right down there.

And there was about thirty of us kids here going to school. We'd all go down there and go skating every, oh quite often.

MAN: Along at that time Roy, about what was --- or Wally, some of you folks, or Ilda May, how many people lived in the valley?

ILDA MAY: Seventy to a hundred. Oh no, right here, the valley was something else. Just like our beautiful townhouse over there, the people came in for school. And about seventy to a hundred people lived here.

ROY: There was quite a bunch, I don't know how many.

ILDA MAY: The little schoolhouse never could hold everybody for the Christmas program.

ROY: I know there was 30 --- well from 29 to 31 that one-year here at school.

WOMAN: Gee, one teacher?

ROY: Yeah. And Helene Swain taught us all.

WOMAN: Oh, for lands sake.

WOMAN: Well I think I have a card up there at the museum that had 40 on it one year.

ILDA MAY: Yes.

ROY: Yeah. Might have been too. Because we lived down there about a mile and a half down there, and we had to walk up that lane. We walked up to school here every day.

PATTI: What kind of money was going around then?

ILDA MAY: Good money. Silver dollars.

ROY: But there wasn't so much of it, but you could buy something with it. (Laughter)

PATTI: Paychecks were paid in silver dollars, or check or ---

ILDA MAY: Silver dollars or checks.

ROY: Oh, there was lots of silver, and some gold.

PATTI: Some gold coins.

ROY: Yeah quite a, oh they was numerous around. There wasn't no trouble to have a gold coin.

...

WOMAN: Tell them about the Christmas tree.

ROY: Huh?

ILDA MAY: I'll tell a story about the Christmas tree. This happened to me. As you probably guessed by this time, that whether the Hayes could sing or not, we've always worked at it. And my father went way up to McCall, and he got this wonderful, wonderful tree and brought it down. And he had --- and some other men, after he got the tree here, they helped him to put it up in the schoolhouse. And he could hardly get it in, and it went the full height of the room. And they had to cut out the top some. Well he wired it, and he wired it solid. But then some of the other men helped him, and they wired it on the back. So there was some, just some darling little girls, dressed in cheesecloth, and our stars were made out of tobacco tin. So we smelled beautifully. And we were singing in our best voices, "Our faith looks up to thee." And the Christmas tree fell right on top of us. (Laughter)

Well, my grandmother had lived through the Silver Lake fire, and had lost some very dear relatives, so she immediately just got right out in the isles so nobody could get by her. And there was a wonderful woman; her name was ... she was in the back of the room. My brother picked up the flaming lamp, and she started screaming to him, "Del bring it to me, bring it to me." And I don't know how she did it, but someway she got over all the seats and passed my grandmother, and put her woolen shawl over the blaze, and killed it, you know. But everybody thought Silver Lake, Silver Lake, here we all go again. But you see, we were all saved.

WOMAN: Did you have candles on the tree? Is that what caused the fire?

WOMAN: The coal oil lamps ---

ILDA MAY: The coal oil lamp --- well when the tree fell over, the coal oil lamp was on the organ.

WOMAN: Oh.

ILDA MAY: And it hit the lamp on the organ, and just immediately went right into a blaze.

WOMAN: Where did you say you got the Christmas tree?

ILDA MAY: Up at McCall Meadows. Call Meadows, isn't it, Call Meadows. Uh huh.

WOMAN: I went to a Christmas party there one time, and the big old Christmas tree --- and they passed the candy around, peanuts, and walnuts and everything around in big wash tubs. That's the way they passed the candy around.

ROY: They used to, a lot of the times they just, take it I guess from donations. They took the candy and peanuts and put them in a sack made out of dish cloth ---

ILDA MAY: Well the ladies made the sacks out of mosquito netting.

ROY: Yeah.

ILDA MAY: They spent days making the sacks. Then you'd meet, and then you'd stuff the sacks. And there was a great bachelor lived here at that time, his name was Sam Graves. That's Alberta Colantino's real father. And he would always come into the Lawen Store, and he would just put down \$25.00 --- now imagine \$25.00 then, to donate for the candy and the nuts. So there were never any little orphans, or never anybody who didn't have lots of sweets, and Christmas presents.

WOMAN: I can remember those big old wash tubs full of candy and nuts, just pass them around in the schoolhouse.

ROY: This place right down here where you see the buildings is where --- used to be Swain place.

WOMAN: Oh, that's the Swain house.

ROY: Yeah. And they used to live --- oh the boys, just the boys lived there, I think. Oscar and ---

ILDA MAY: Oh no, the whole family lived there.

ROY: They lived there at one time, but they moved to Burns when I can remember them. And Oscar stayed here all the time, and the other --- what was the other ---

ILDA MAY: Albert.

ROY: Albert, Albert. I ought to have remembered that, he married some relative of mine.

WOMAN: Nellie Timmas. (sp.?)

ROY: Yeah.

ILDA MAY: Well I'll tell you; we had a good time, that was the important thing.

WOMAN: What's that ranch out there?

ROY: Well that's the one that belongs to ---

ILDA MAY: What did you say Joe?

MARCUS: Tell them about Dr. Iland.

ROY: It's the old Sitz place. Rube Sitz place ---

ILDA MAY: I want to talk about Dr. Iland. (Laughter) See we're friends. Well she was a very lovely cultured lady. She came in here and she filed on some land out here at the hot springs. That was her headquarters. And she really and truly was a very excellent doctor, just excellent. And of course you can imagine what that, blessing that was for this whole community, and this whole section of this country. Because when I was born, Dr. Marsden had to drive by horse and buggy all the way from Burns down to my father's homestead. And I almost beat the doctor into the scene. Well when Dr. Iland moved in here, she was great. Well, we had a very charming, handsome young man, and his

name was Ralph Catterson. And he had never married. He had a beautiful driving team. And some way along the line, and during the courting, Ralph Catterson married Dr. Iland. And we were never quite sure whether she married Ralph, or whether she wanted a good driver and a good team. But it didn't make any difference, because he took her all over the county. Took her way down to the South End, and every-place. And then afterwards, they had, they set up a resort out here, and called it the Catterson --- Iland-Catterson Hot Springs. And we danced out there too.

MAN: Is that down here ---

ILDA MAY: Yes.

PATTI: Where was that at?

ILDA MAY: They had a --- well we'll go by it, we'll see it. But they had a dance hall.

ROY: It burnt down out there, I guess.

WOMAN: I wondered what happened to that old house.

ILDA MAY: Yeah, we danced.

ROY: Yeah, the old --- well they had the swimming pool there too, you know.

WOMAN: Yeah, I remember that.

ROY: The old tank, pool is still there yet, you know.

ILDA MAY: I could tell a funny story about that, but I'll wait until ---

ROY: The cement work.

WOMAN: I remember that place.

MARCUS: You folks are through reminiscing here; we'll get on down the line.

WALLY: ... T. C. Albritton was the one that promoted this for a development project, and it didn't pan through. I might give you a little bit of a reason how come --- but Harriman as we come down, I'll do it right here instead of Albritton. But anyway, how this development happened to come, you can appreciate it, what a railroad meant back in the early times.

Now Bessie Clemens isn't over here, but her father was a freighter, and I don't know whether there is any other freighters in here. But they had, with those six-horse and eight-horse teams, haul it from Huntington, Oregon. That was before Ontario was there.

So anyway, there was really a battle between Harriman and Hill. And Hill of the Great Northern Railroad --- I mean from the Columbia River, and that's really what, they both went parallel to the Deschutes River. And it was a little bit rough, so they got together on it. And he let Harriman come over that part.

But anyway Harriman was afraid of the Union Pacific, that Hill was going to beat him to an outlet down into San Francisco. And also they even had a route that was surveyed for a railroad line out this way. It was going to connect with that one that goes up to Bend, down over across --- it was going through Adel at that time. So really, what started the movement from Ontario after the Union Pacific went into Ontario, was really --- he was afraid of Hill of the Great Northern, that he might beat him. So he started up from Ontario, and up the Malheur River Canyon, which we'll see when we go to Riverside. But anyway, that was the background. So anyway, Dr. --- well we'll get to Harriman when we get down there.

So Tommy and Roy were both here. Roy went to school over at that end of Saddle Butte there. Tommy's father owned forty acres out here, and Roy was out here. So we'll let them get close to the mike and tell you what happened out here.

ROY: Well, I went to school right over here. Right where them big rushes --- oh, it's over there, maybe a quarter, but pretty close. And the hotel itself stood right here. Of course Tommy knows about this too. And the old barber shop that (Charlie) Rohn had was right over there. They had a little street in between. And it was big enough they held quite a few dances in there. And then they was some dwellings down here that belonged to another Albritton, a brother to T. C. And that was this piece of ground in here. Then they

had another dwelling over here, and a great big livery barn. And it had a loft in it, and it was a big one.

PATTI: Did this road go right through the area?

ROY: Well, it goes ---

PATTI: That the ---

ROY: This one used to go up to where we used to live. And then you could turn off right out there, and go by the schoolhouse and down through there.

PATTI: Oh.

ROY: Or there was another one comes in off of this road down there. Maybe it's growed up now, I suppose. And that was about the size of the buildings here.

PATTI: This was a motel here, huh?

ROY: Yeah. They did have ---

PATTI: Or a hotel.

ROY: --- Albritton run this, and promoted it. Had a hotel here, and people used to come out. Mrs. McDonald ---

PATTI: Horsetail.

ROY: --- used to come out here and stay quite a bit out here when Myrtle Rohn was here. And you know, Bobby McConnell's, it was --- Mrs. McConnell is the one it was.

MARCUS: Oh.

ROY: Used to come out here quite a lot and stay. Of course her and Mrs. Rohn were friends, you know, great friends. And I guess they didn't do too much, only they did keep some people. And then people would come out here and just --- I guess they liked to get out in the country, and they was out when they come out here.

PATTI: Hey Roy, did you say there was a schoolhouse there, and one here too?

ROY: Well ---

PATTI: It's such a short area.

ROY: Well this was just in homestead shacks up here. Two or three different years ---

PATTI: Up at the end of the Butte, that was a schoolhouse, with a few homesteads at one time, right?

ROY: Yeah. Then they built ---

PATTI: Later, they put this one in.

ROY: --- then they built the schoolhouse here, and Theis, Herman. Theis built this schoolhouse.

MARCUS: Got your carpenter, in other words.

ROY: Yeah.

MARCUS: Tell them what happened to it.

ROY: Well, it went along for a number of years, and I think Lyle Hill bought it and moved it over to his present, the place over there on Sod House.

WALLY: Marcus helped move it.

TOMMY JENKINS: Which way did you go with it Marcus?

MARCUS: Right across the lake.

TOMMY: On this side?

MARCUS: No, right across by the old bat house, and right through there. It was dry.

WALLY: Tell them about moving.

MARCUS: Well, we just jacked the thing up and put a couple logs under it, the building was 40 x 26 feet. We remodeled it later and made a house. Walt McEwen owns it now. And put a couple of dollies under the back end, and then swung the back end over a ton and a half truck, and just took off with it. Got down here on the soft ground, and in went the truck, and out went the clutch in it. So we got the (Laughter) we got Standly Ausmus with an old Cat, he stuck the bar in the flywheel and a match and something to get it

started. And he dragged us on across with it. And then we danced in it all that winter, and had a play or two in it. (Laughter) Then the next spring we remodeled it, and that's the house that they're living in now.

ROY: It was a pretty well constructed house too.

MARCUS: You bet. A dandy.

MAN: Did you folks back in that day do anything but dance?

MARCUS: That's all we knew how to do. (Laughter)

WALLY: Well I think in 1922, the Albritton Company turned the property over to Tommy's father. Now if you want to tell them something about it?

TOMMY: Well, I'll start with one thing. T. C. Albritton, he was a promoter, is what he was. And him and his brother homesteaded here. And then in the old railroad survey, the junction, or the "Y" was supposed to be about right up, just oh, maybe a half mile or so from here. And that's where the railroad was supposed to take off to go across by the Double O and then across by Adel and connect up with that railroad that goes from Bend across to Klamath.

And so he, Albritton, platted this town site on his homestead here. And my dad put in some money on this, to build this hotel here. And it didn't, it didn't work out very good. It was a pretty good-sized building. They had a large dining room, and a kitchen and pretty well fixed up. And had several rooms upstairs, and a lobby. And Dr. Iland-Catterson had her office right off of the lobby of the hotel. And Myrtle Rohn, wife of Charlie Rohn that had the barber shop across the street, she was mad at the manager of the hotel, and she was also the nurse of, for Mrs. Iland, Dr. Iland-Catterson. That was before Dr. Iland-Catterson moved over to the Hot Springs there and built that place over there.

And we, well Albritton just picked up and left the country, and he just turned his

interest over to my dad. The buildings that were here, the old barn that Roy was talking about, back over there, we tore it down. And we got quite a bit of help from the neighbors there too, in between times. And we got --- but at least we got part of the lumber. (Laughter)

And then when we started --- well they gradually started tearing the old hotel building down, so we, at that time we were living at Riddle Mountain. And we'd come over here, maybe about three of us, and we'd work all day tearing down lumber, and piling it up, pulling nails. And when we'd get enough for, we had a small Model-T truck, when we'd get enough for a truckload, we'd bring the truck over and then haul it home. One time we had a load all piled up here ready to haul home, and we brought the truck over here, there was no lumber. So we got what we could tear down that day, and went home. We found out where the lumber went to. That load of lumber anyway.

So we went and talked to Ralph Catterson, and it didn't take long to find out where the lumber was. (Laughter) And so then he said, "Well, it is piled up over here at the old Catterson place."

ROY: Yeah.

TOMMY: And so we went over there and hauled it home. But we didn't get many loads of lumber out of the whole building. Because once word got around that it was being torn down, why we would have got plenty of help then.

ROY: Yeah, you sure did. I know we took part of it down, for part of the lumber. But we didn't tear it down, near all of it.

TOMMY: Yeah.

ROY: And I guess that was some of that lumber that come up missing. We piled it up, you see, to get it, and all of a sudden it come up missing.

TOMMY: Yeah. Well that's when they had the place over here at the Hot Springs, you

know.

ROY: Yeah.

TOMMY: And then Ralph told us, well if we wouldn't cause any trouble, why we could just go ahead and load the lumber up and take it home. So we went over and got the lumber.

ROY: This actually was a --- had a post office here at one time. I think I probably have some old letters or something around that

--- probably, they might have been some school records that had Saddle Butte on them. I probably have some yet.

TOMMY: I never was sure about that.

ROY: Huh?

MAN: Saddle Butte, was that the post office?

ROY: Yeah.

MAN: It wasn't Albritton, that was Saddle Butte?

ROY: No, no.

MAN: Oh.

ROY: I don't know. They call it the Saddle Butte Post Office.

WALLY: The Saddle Butte School.

ROY: And when Miss Middle --- this teacher that used to be here, she had a place off of Warm Spring Butte up there, right on that point. Up next to the highway. She was teaching school here, and she run this, had a little store and the post office. So after school hours, you could get your mail. (Laughter)

TOMMY: When we were coming on the bus there, Roy mentioned old Tom Libby; he used to have that homestead out there. And remember when he used to come into Crane, and be deputy sheriff at the dances there at Crane.

ROY: Yeah. He lived right there where that old shack is.

TOMMY: Yeah. And he had an old team and buggy, and he'd come in there and he --- and that was in the prohibition days, and we'd go into those dances in there, and of course old Tom he was always trying to catch some of us with moonshine, you know. So some of the fellows would get Tom real busy talking, while the other guys would go out and have a few shots of moonshine. And then they'd come in and keep Tom busy while --

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Roy: Yeah he ... with the old store building, hotel building itself. And they had a liquor store right over there. And the store building, merchandise was right down there where that sagebrush sticks up. It's just a little ways down, close to where those women are, out this way. Doc Denman's office was right here where this plank is. And there was another little building just on the other side of it. There is two dugouts there. Was --- I can't remember those people's name, but they run a little restaurant there. And of course the schoolhouse stood over here on this knoll. And I don't know too much about this place, only that ---

PATTI: The racetrack was over there, you say?

ROY: It was right out there.

PATTI: By the hill, or in the flat?

ROY: No, just right out the other side of Ilda May, and up.

PATTI: Oh.

WALLY: Can you point out something from the picture there Earl?

ROY: Well, this was the store building, see?

MARCUS: Now that's the one that was over here, Roy?

ROY: Yeah. And this is the one that was right there.

MARCUS: Yeah, this --- Mrs. McKenzie, wherever she's at, tells about coming over here

and having a vaccination for smallpox in this building right here.

ROY: And this building here evidently wasn't built at that time. Because otherwise it would have shown up right in here. This was another little merchandise store, stood right over there someplace. Almost across the street from the building that should have been in here.

WALLY: Where did Mrs. McKenzie and Pat go?

WOMAN: She is out over there, see?

WALLY: Oh, uh huh.

ROY: So at ---

PAULINE BRAYMEN: What year was the Harriman established, Wally?

WALLY: Pardon?

PAULINE: What year was Harriman established?

WALLY: 1907.

ROY: So I don't know when, when did they build it up in here, is that when it built up?

WALLY: Well it started --- that was the first thing after the plat was 1907, it was started.

ROY: Well, my vision of it probably wasn't too good; I was only seven years old at that time. (Laughter)

WALLY: Dr. Denman started with the development of it.

ROY: My age goes right along with the years.

PAULINE: Yeah.

ROY: So it ---

PAULINE: Well, in this hotel here, this was the hotel, and it burned down?

ROY: Yeah.

PAULINE: Do you remember when it burned down?

ROY: Oh, no I don't. I don't know what year it burned down.

PATTI: According to Elsie, it was, put a match to it and burnt it down. (Laughter)

ROY: Did what?

PATTI: The gal that owned it set a match to it and burnt it down. ROY: Well that ---

PATTI: Collected insurance, and then built another one.

ROY: Everybody had that opinion, and they couldn't prove it.

MARCUS: It's happened many times in Harney County.

MAN: Did these little towns all disappear at about the same time, Harriman, and Albritton?

WALLY: Yeah, they did really after the --- really from the railroad start, when they started disappearing was when the railroad was built up from Crane to Burns in 1924.

ROY: Yeah.

WALLY: And that was, even Crane went down then as a town. See, I mean it was a railhead there. Then the railroad was real important back in that era. And then after the railroad, the ... was at Burns, and then there were some dry years combined with it too. You know, I mean and some of the ---

PATTI: They moved a lot of the buildings ---

ROY: There used to be a lot of homesteaders around. Denman fed this whole country in here.

WALLY: Moved one in, and had the Denman, called it the Denman Hotel over into Crane. Where is Mrs. Louie?

ROY: One time I came out here for something, a horseback. I was just a kid. On the way out, there was a bounty on the coyotes, and I found a den over here. So I borrowed a shovel from my uncle, and I dug back, oh from here to Joe there, and they went down kind of deep, and I was --- getting late. I didn't know how to get them out of there, so I poked two of them out of there with a shovel. Then I crawled down there backwards, and

hooked my shoes around their feet, and I drug the other five out that way. (Laughter) But they were worth \$3 and \$4, you know, and that was quite a bit of money in those days. (Laughter) Crawled on the horse and took them home. They were about this high.

PAULINE: Just little pups.

ROY: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah.

ROY: I killed them all, and tied them all on the saddle, just as they was. Took them home and skinned them.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARION LOUIE: ... used to be. He died over 114 of his age, he died, Captain Louie. And about, he tells about his father and mother, how they destroyed, by who. Way back time, out this way, other side of a canyon somewhere, there are real witch doctor, names Kalouwah (sp.?), his name. He sent his only son out to hunt summer. There was a woodpecker, I guess you all you know. The birds makes a hole in the wood. He sent his boy, and the boy hunting those things, and he found one, probably, then he reached down into the bird's nest. There was a snake in there. And he got bite from the snake. He just, his arm just swell up in the nest where he reached down for the little birds.

He missed his boy around about four days, might be four nights. He was getting worried, why his boy ... So he just searching around which way he went. There his boys were, his boy hanging down from the tree. All swollen into the wood. He found it.

Then he just cried and cried when he found his boy. All, every day, every day he was crying. Then he told his people, there was great ban here in Harney Valley, close to this Malheur Lake, where they gather this black seed. What are they called? Then he told the people in the fall times, when the time you can gather those seeds. I'm going to destroy all you, my people. But people didn't understand what he was mean about it. He

gathered here. Then he just cried and cried.

One night all the people lay into their property there in the home, in the family. Made out of sagebrush like that. And the middle of the night people were dying. Some are spitting the blood, laying in there, in there where they steam. Children and all. But, a few were left. His grandpa's mother, grandpa's mother and daddy were dead; both in the first death, what he get it here.

After that, next day, he still remember his son. Do the same thing. And they gathered, people didn't realize what was going to happen again. So they stayed, come together here around this Harney Lake to gather this seed. Then they do the same thing. People were dying, dying, the ones were left. They stay there, grandfather didn't die, and her sister, and another brother. But their mother and daddy was dead in the first death.

Then, after that, people getting wise. They talking about this man, real witch doctor. He live by himself. He had a big sagebrush made around him, and he was sitting there, making a big fire.

So the people decide how they going to kill that man. And they hire, around about three, to kill that man with a bow and arrow. But they came he tried to shot him with a bow and arrow, but they didn't kill him. And they run out of there, arrow. So they jump on this man, and burn all his wood, whatever he got around him. Make a big fire. And they all jump onto the man, and put it over that fire. But the man wasn't burning. All he was making some kind of noise, when they hold him over the fire. Pretty soon he just curl up and he died like a snake. And people realize from there, how he kill his own people. Some were, others death.

I guess some of you know old Tabby used to be. That old man? Some of you know. Way back, he was about, where that boy, about his size. And he remember everything. He used to sit down with the old folks and tell about all those story, what was

here. All the Indians were, near around, gathering in this valley. And where that little point was on top of that hot spring. There were a man had a lot of horse, all kinds, pretty. Pinto horses. And he watched over the little hill ... And they were close to the hill, the one who owns the horses. And one day, I guess they are looking at the horse, and there some said, look like that isn't our horses in the bunches. Two of them on each side of them horses. And two men were walked toward them, and they checked them horses, and they were a person on them horses, hiding on the side of the horse. They were from Pendleton Indians, clear over here to get the Indian horses. All kinds of pinto horses, and pretty horses.

So the two men brought them to the camp, and might be feed them something. You know, can't understand the one, one, a language. They don't understand the one language. And they just pointed. They pretend they want to eat something. So they feed them. In the evening, they pointed, toward this way. They was going to go. And they didn't attention to that day. They didn't watch that horse.

Around about the middle of the night, they just round up the horses, and drove them away. And somewhere along the Harney, somewhere skip on sight of the horses, and those men follow the tracks on foot. Finally they catch the ones who were standing on the side of the road, might be old horse and tracks more, on and on. They didn't find any, just a few, returned the horse. But they drove the others to the Pendleton, towards the north.

MARCUS: Mrs. Louie, tell us about the fishing here, I think it must have been the Sod House Spring here.

MARION: Yeah, the place I used to know long ago.

MARCUS: Yes, tell us about that.

MARION: In the wintertime, Indian were wintering there up on a little hill on down to The

Narrows. They went down there, and the fish just come from that spring, thick. And Indians, the man folks just jump into the water, when the grass was kind of icy on side of the water. And they were just taking the fish out of the spring and throwing them on side. Some were just shivering when they cold. But the women keep on carrying sagebrush wood, and build, keep on the fire going, for them to be warm.

That's how they put their, put away their food, the fish, and rabbit for this valley, and this seed what I was talking about. And those other roots out in the hills, many kinds, different ones, to put away for the winter food. And around in the thicket they hunted deer, dry them to put away. I used to like it, when they dry. Salted and dried it. And they make a gravy and boil it with some roots, and mixed up, that's all they had. Until town comes, I guess they taste the better food.

MARCUS: It makes me hungry, I think ---

MAN: Where did you get the salt to salt the meat?

MARION: I don't know, I don't think they use the salt.

ILDA MAY: It was unrefined salt. Unrefined salt.

MAN: Did you use it ---

PATTI: Did you say you wintered down to the Sod House Springs?

MARION: Yes, but --- I been through there, but ---

WALLY: ... and they got out, and they held them up. They took Dibble's Chrysler car, and went on into Burns. And when the ... the phone connection, they didn't get it right away, but they finally got it into Burns, why Clarence Young was sheriff, and Clarence and Al Frye, they tracked them and they went to Crane. And then they caught them not too far from here, and ---

SIDE B

WALLY: ... they had a trial on it. And Clifford Cook was seven-teen years old, and he was paroled, he was found guilty and paroled, and Ralph Burns was sent to the pen, I think for two years. So Walt, do you remember when that happened? That was November, the last of November of 1926.

WALT: My mother remembers much better than I. (Laughter)

WOMAN: I was working in the sheriff's office. ... Clarence Young ... he wrote a letter every month, faithfully. He joined the Marines. And he wrote me a letter from China. You know, you weren't too cranky with the prisoners; you kind of made a friend. ... was just kind of a, innocent, he was taken in on the whole thing. Ralph Burns was kind of ornery. He was a cousin of Clifford Cook. But yes sir, I always wondered what happened to that kid. He was a great big fat kid. ...

WALT: ... way up there, and it comes down and comes in the river right, well here at Art Domans. Right just above this ranch.

WALLY: Now who is on that ranch up above the place, up there now?

WALT: On this ranch here? This is Perry Ott here.

WALLY: Ott.

WALT: And Art Doman is the next ranch above.

WALLY: And whose did that used to be?

WALT: That used to be the Harry Carey place, and before that it was the Chris Daneen ranch.

WALLY: Oh, yeah. Now that, head of Coleman Creek is up there. Now Walt, what does Coleman Creek empty into?

WALT: It empties into the South Fork of the Malheur.

WALLY: South Fork, whereabouts?

WALT: Just above the, just above this ranch here. Right just around, above that point of,

point of hill.

WALLY: That would probably be about two miles.

WALT: Oh, a couple of miles straight through. Yes.

WALLY: Well now you were in the sheep business back in the days when they ran sheep through this country, and so was Tommy's father. So why don't you two kind of discuss that now.

ROY: Well, back in those days, why that was before the Taylor Grazing Law came into effect. And unless it was a homestead or state land, script land or something like that, or in this country here, which Walt can tell you more about that, what they called the road land. They had the odd section was on each side of the, was road land, and they could buy it. And I think you own a lot of that yourself, don't you Walt?

WALT: You see they later had the right to block these road lands in certain areas. And they would be blocked in this area, and they blocked over on this Coleman Mountain. And they took every other section out of the townships. And my dad bought a lot of this road land in here. Then on this other side, why it was the Crane Creek Sheep Company bought a lot of that. And then later Stringer and Fine acquired it. But then they acquired some of this land with, well there was railroad script, and there was soldier's script. Some of this I think was Great Northern Railroad script.

ROY: Yeah, right. And then they at that time, you could buy state land.

WALT: Yeah.

ROY: Some --- you would make application for 40 year, 80, 160, whatever, and then it never was the same price. So they would just, you would make your application, and sometimes you would get it for maybe a couple dollars an acre. And maybe sometime, next time why it would be \$10 an acre. And that's the way --- no set price on it.

But in those days, why the sheep men from down in the, along the Snake River

Valley, that started in lambing down there in the middle of March, they would start out on the trail just when the grass started coming on the range. And they would just feed their way, up this way. And for a long time why they sheared an awful lot of sheep here at Riverside. Then they would load their wool right on the cars there, and ship it. And sometimes they would go on up, if it was cold weather, they would go on up to our old shearing corral. And then all that wool had to come out of there by freight team. And a lot of it used to come this way. And then up by the Granite Creek Ranch, and up to that old Crowley Road, and down to Harper, and down that way to Ontario.

But then they --- a lot of those fellows that had those early lambs, they would sometimes shear there at Riverside. And then work their way right on up on the Steens. When those early lambs got fat, and heavy enough, why then they would trail back down to either Riverside or Venator Siding. And they would take the fat lambs off of there, and load them on separate cars, and ship them

--- either sell them there, or ship them themselves back to Denver, Omaha, or wherever they thought the market was best. And then they would load the ewes on, in cars, and the rest of the lambs that weren't fat enough to go, and they'd ship them back to Idaho. And our grass was gone, and they were going home to their own range. That's --- made it tough on anybody that ran sheep right along in here.

I know Walt and his father had enough of them go through your range up here. Just as soon as they got off of Walt's range, why then they were onto us, and we had them from there on. So ---

MAN: Clear to the Steens, huh?

WALLY: Another thing that I want to bring up, we passed through Venator, and I think probably Walt, you remember Frederick Cashler.

WALT: I remember.

WALLY: That had the store at Venator, and he said he was going to start a town there. And when the one went out to interview him from the paper, and he said, "How are you going to start a town here?" And he said, "Well Chicago started with one building." And he had this sign over his door, which made Liberty Magazine at that time on the back page. And it read, "Why go other places to be stung, when you can come here?" Remember that one?

WALT: I don't remember that one.

ROY: It was in his ad in the paper, in the Crane American too. Another thing, he had the post office there, and at that time all those smaller post offices around the country were what they called cancellation post offices. They sold the stamps, and that's the way they got paid for running the post office. And he got wise to it. You could ship fifty pounds of, package by parcel post, and the stage driver, if you put the stamps on it, why it didn't make any difference what it was, just so it was --- fifty pounds or less. And old Fred, he'd buy those fifty pound sacks of stock salt which we all, regular sheep salt we called it. And it come in fifty-pound sacks. And he'd put the postage stamps right on those salt sacks. And he'd ship them clear to Diamond, or Catlow Valley, or wherever anybody wanted to buy salt. He would sell it cheaper than anybody else, because he was getting the cancellation off of that --- on that post office. But he run that racket there for quite awhile. And then they caught up to him on that, and that stopped. So it wasn't too long after that until Fred sold out. I think Clarence Luce was the next one that owned it.

WALT: It was, who bought it Mother, after, from him? It was --- who bought the Venator from --- it was, he didn't have it very long, and then Clarence bought it.

ROY: I know. Clarence was the next one I saw there after ---

MAN: Didn't Venator, one of the Venator boys buy it at one time?

ROY: No.

WALT: No, he never did. They moved down there after Francis and --- after they kind of split up, why they moved down. One of the boys moved down there and stayed.

ILDA MAY: Did the Peterson boys ever own it?

WALT: No.

WALLY: Well that part of that lumber, when they built Venator Siding up, came from the Dickenson Mill, up above Burns. You know in 1917, they cut that timber from the Dickenson Mill, so Ashley says. And trucked it over to Venator to build, to do some building then.

WALT: Well they didn't, that wasn't established then though, Wally.

WALLY: No, I meant they did some building, he said. Hauled that lumber down there in 1917.

ROY: Well, when the railroad got to Venator Siding, why then they, the stockmen got the railroad company to put in those stockyards. I see they are still there. And they were a real good set of corrals there. And then there is several sheep men that used to load sheep out of there. They went in together, I know --- I'm sure your dad was in it, on it.

WALT: No, he wasn't in it, he was on the Riverside one.

ROY: Oh, he was. Anyway, we went in together and put in a set of scales right there at the stockyards. And we had a share in those scales there until, oh for years and years. I don't know whether the scales are still there or not.

WALT: I think they are. I think Henrietta and Dan and some of those people in that area keep them up.

ROY: Well we sold our shares after we got to trucking our lambs into Crane. Why we didn't have any use for the scales there at Venator Siding anymore. So we sold our share

to John and Ben Madaraga. (sp.?)

WALT: And Charlie Sutherland had it ---

ROY: Yeah, Gordon Sutherland, they had shares in there. They used to be a lot of sheep loaded out of there, in the summertime, and then along in the fall too.

WALLY: I think that I will go over and talk to Walt's mother, Mrs. McEwen, about when she first came out here.

MIMA McEWEN: ... somebody else.

WALLY: You and your daughter.

MIMA: You can help him out. Walter knows more about --- the kids know more about it than I do. (Laughter)

WALLY: When did you settle on this place Mrs. McEwen?

MIMA: 1919.

WALLY: 1919.

MIMA: Uh huh.

WALLY: And let's see, this house was over here then, was it? Or did you ---

MIMA: Yeah, those two were.

WALLY: Those two.

MIMA: Uh huh.

WALLY: Were they here when you came, or did you ---

MIMA: Uh huh. And we lived in the middle one there, for almost 30 years.

WALLY: Almost 30 years.

MIMA: And then we built this one. (Laughter)

WALLY: So that would make 1949, that you ---

MIMA: Yes, about '48 or '49, we come to this, moved to this --- just after the war.

WALLY: Oh yes, uh huh. What was it like back in 1919, in that time?

MIMA: Well there was lots more people than there is now.

WALLY: Oh, yes.

MIMA: Oh, just homesteaders, you know. Just lots more people.

WALLY: Uh huh.

MIMA: And the train, we had good train service. You could mail a letter one day, and get an order back from Montgomery Wards in two or three days.

WALLY: Uh huh.

MIMA: Now it takes a week or ten days. (Laughter) Uh huh. Did Hazel run off? I guess she left.

WALLY: Well, thank you.

MIMA: That's all right.

...

WALT: I don't remember how many coyotes he had, but he had quite a little bunch of them in there.

ROY: He was quite a character, old George was. Once I sheared sheep with him down there at Riverside, two or three different years. Two years I guess.

WALLY: Who was that, you say?

ROY: George Barclay.

WALT: George Barclay.

ROY: He married one of the ---

WALT: Cox.

ROY: --- Cox girls down there.

WALLY: Were they from Riverside, the Coxes?

ROY: Yeah, yeah. The boys live down there yet, I guess. They are all around there close, aren't they?

WALT: No, the Coxes are all dead.

ROY: Oh, I mean the Blaylocks.

WALT: The Blaylocks, yeah three Blaylock boys still live down there.

ROY: They were related to the Coxes.

WALT: Yeah, they were related.

WALLY: What's the first thing you remember about Riverside, Walt?

TOMMY: Martha Shutter, probably.

WALT: Well, I can sure remember her, all right. (Laughter)

WALLY: Who was that?

WALT: Martha Shutter. I don't remember really, I don't really remember what I did ... the first time. M. J., she went by the name of M. J. Shutter. Still find a few of these old bottles; you know they used to have pasteboard, wooden boxes, you know. It would be M. J. Shutter, Riverside, Oregon. You will see those old boxes around yet once in awhile.

TOMMY: Did you ever know Old Slim Duprey?

WALT: Yeah.

TOMMY: You know ---

WALT: He was the V. T. man, wasn't he? Oh, no, no ---

TOMMY: No, Sam Trimble was the ---

ILDA MAY: He was an H. H. man, wasn't he?

WALT: Yeah, yeah.

TOMMY: Yes, Slim Duprey, he had a ---

WALT: Not too well, but I did know him. Know of him.

TOMMY: Knew his reputation.

WALT: Yeah, uh huh.

ILDA MAY: Well he put them in ---

TOMMY: He is the one that, he had a band of sheep, but he didn't work at it too much. He always hired his work done. But he had ladies that went up on the mountain. And there is a meadow named after him up there.

WALT: Well, he had a hotel in Riverside.

TOMMY: Yeah.

WALT: It was called the Duprey Hotel, yeah. It burned down years and years ago.

TOMMY: Yeah, that's what he had down there too. And then he got --- before they could get on up on the mountain there, that meadow where he had his headquarters there for his girls, he had two other different places, one of them was at the head of Riddle Creek there. There is some of the old, you can make out some of the old building, made out of quaking asp trees. Sit in the quaking asp grove there. And then there is another one up on Riddle Creek that goes into McCoy Creek up there, to make a nice name for it, they called it Whoreden Creek.

WALT: Yeah. (Laughter)

ROY: You know Mrs. Shutter, she run the hotel and the little pool hall there. And they had a bunch of Negroes on the section crew. And she had a headache come one day, and she was complaining about it, and this old Nigger said, "Lady, you haven't got the headache, you just got skull ache." (Laughter) Made her awful mad. Of course she could get mad pretty quick anyway.

WALLY: Well you remember when Kathryn Conser was telling us about it, when she and her mother came up on the train from Portland, and they stopped at the Riverside Restaurant. And she ordered that combination salad. Was that --- what was that woman's name? That was in 1922. Stopped at the restaurant.

ROY: I remember down there too, they had that section crew there, and Negroes, and they would go on down towards the bridge, you know, below Riverside. And one

morning, here was a darn cougar crossed over there, right at that bridge, went over the bridge. And so some of them was talking, and this Negro boss up there one evening, he said, "What would you have done," he said, "if that fellow had tried to get on that car with you?" He said, "He sure could have had my place." (Laughter)

WALLY: Well didn't they used to ford the river down here, before that bridge was built?

WALT: Up here, oh yeah, that bridge is new.

WALLY: That's what I thought.

TOMMY: It was put in after I was on the court.

WALT: That bridge has been in about ten years or less, I think. TOMMY: Oh, no, it was put in there when I was on the court, though.

WALT: Oh was it, this one up here?

TOMMY: Yeah.

ROY: It was put in right after that Columbus Day flood or some-thing.

TOMMY: No, it was before that.

ROY: Was it?

WALT: Well, Tommy the bridge was put in, I remember ---

ROY: Something happened to it, it washed out or something.

WALT: Well we had that real high water that year, and I can remember Herb, you know, he poured those peers, and there was one he was a little bit suspicious whether he ever got down in the bedrock or not, you know. So then they hauled that rock in there, you know. Darned near filled that thing in there with rock. And then that high water come, and then all there was, was a bridge sitting out there on two peers. No dirt or anything.

TOMMY: I remember that.

WALT: So then they built that addition on this side, and there is no doubt now but what it will stay. Well you were still a county

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TOMMY: Oh yeah, I was on the court even after it washed out, the ends of it.

WALT: Well when did you go off, Tom, the court?

WALLY: '56, wasn't it?

TOMMY: About then. I went on in '30 --- well I was on there 18, just about 19 years.

ROY: I remember right below that, after that flood was down through there, you know, and washed that gravel all up there in piles. That washed out when we was running the spray truck for the county.

WALT: Uh huh.

ROY: And we stopped there and eat our lunch, and the boy and I, we got out and looked, just looking around there during the noon hour. You know, I picked up four or five of them motor deals, you know, the thing you hold in your hand. I didn't find no bulb, but I found this other piece. You know, four or five of them on those gravel piles there. I got them out at the house yet.

WALT: Well, I think there was a bridge there at one time, before, many years before. Went down the stream, because there was old abutments there. And I understand over here, they had a big flume. It was here for years. And Spurlocks had it, and I understood that they just got that flume built. And they had a real high water, and it took the flume out, and it took that bridge out too. And I believe they had a bridge on the old China Road there at Venator too. And I think it took them all out at the same time. It was all military work.

TOMMY: Yeah, that's something I never could get anybody to explain. How did the old China Road get its name?

WALT: It was built by coolie labor. That's what I understood; they brought in coolie labor to build the road.

ROY: That's probably what happened all right.

WALLY: How far did that road go, after it went up the canyon, didn't it, by that J. Q.'s place?

WALT: Yes, it went up what they called Roads Canyon there. It went clear to Nyssa. See it was the Willamette Valley Wagon Road Company. You know it went from Eugene to Nyssa --- Albany, yeah, uh huh.

WALLY: Albany to the --- really to the Idaho line. It went up that old mountain road --- or Willamette Valley, Cascade Mountain Road Company went up that.

WALT: I don't know why they went that way, but --- because you see the old main road, as you remember Wally, you were telling me one time, you come through here. One went this way, and the other one went up Bendire Creek.

WALLY: Yeah.

WALT: And this was quite a main traveled road to Vale at one time.

WALLY: Yeah.

WALT: It was either this way, or the other way.

WALLY: Yeah. Because the one from Bendire went over the mountain.

WALT: Yeah.

WALLY: It was --- tracks are still up there. But this one, this road from here, we went over that a couple years ago. Benny West and I when we took off, and then we went out by Skull Springs and the Hole in the Ground, and then came on into Harper.

WALT: Well you know Wally; you never did see these old ruts up here in the rock.

WALLY: No, I didn't.

WALT: Up here at the head of this creek, there is some ruts about this deep in the rock, where those old freight wagons had wore there.

WALLY: Is that Visher Creek?

WALT: Yes.

WALLY: Up Visher Creek, yeah. How far from here is it Walt?

WALT: About four miles.

WALLY: About four miles. I'll have to get up there one of these times. Did you ever see them Roy?

ROY: No, I don't believe I did.

WALT: They're not right on the main, they're just --- the road has been changed a little. Just right over, just a short distance where the old road went through.

WALLY: Wagon Road Company. Well, I've been talking to Walt McEwen, we're at his place, at the Visher Ranch, and Roy Heinz, and Tommy Jenkins.

WALT: But anyway, Wally has a picture here, and he says the pool hall and restaurant that was down on, you see about those, at the end of that steel post fence. And then the next one, I don't remember. That looks like a tent house in there of some sort.

PATTI: What year are we talking about?

WALLY: Mid teens.

MAN: Is that right? It's newer than the other two, huh?

WALT: And then the old store building, they call it Hotel Pioneer. But the old store building stood right here in this corner. And then Mrs. Shutter, M. J. Shutter's grandson remodeled it, and he ended up with what's left there. He took all the --- it was an old two story hotel, or building with a dance hall on top. I guess they had dance halls in all of them. And back --- pretty much probably like the Lawen Store. Because it had a back stairway that went up. I can remember when we were kids, there were some skunks around town, and we chased them up there, and tried to capture them. (Laughter)

And then right on this corner was another one they called --- this was, they called it here, Riverside Merc. Well that was old Tom Book. And he had a store here. And then

right about in here there was a, the Pacific, remember the old Standfield --- Pacific --- what did they call that? They called it The Company anyway. They had a freight barn here, and they used to do a lot of freighting from here with their --- freighting corn and feed out for their sheep.

MAN: Was that this outfit?

WALT: Probably is.

TOMMY: Yeah, they're the same ones that owned the Crowley Ranch at one time.

WALT: Yes, owned the Crowley. And they'd have these freight teams come in here, and they had a metal barn. And then a little farther, right in here, there was a feed store here. Which is in front of this old freight barn, or I mean this PLS, or Company barn. And then there was an old garage behind. And then on this other corner, there was an old livery stable. And then over, there was two or three houses out here. And there was a hotel; Tom was talking about old Slim Duprey. He had his hotel over on the other side. It burned down years ago. And then there was another building farther over. That was the post office. That's where the Coxes lived. And this was the old church over here, what's left of it.

MARCUS: Which one is that, Walt?

WALT: This old building right there, I think is the old church. And then we lived back up in the far end of the town. There isn't anything left there now. (Laughter)

PAULINE: Well, was Riverside a freighting station, or stage stop before the railroad came in? Or was it just developed when the railroad came?

WALT: Well, I think the railroad; it ended here during the First Worlds War.

TOMMY: Yeah.

WALT: And I think they freighted here for several years.

TOMMY: Quite a few years before it went on up.

WALT: Then it went to Crane.

MAN: It ended here I know about, by 1917, because that is when I started in shearing sheep here. And it didn't go on.

WALLY: Yeah, it went on, because it came into Crane in 1916.

MAN: Did it?

WALLY: July 11th, 1916.

MAN: They was building on it.

WALLY: Train went into Crane, and I think they started --- you see from Juntura, when it got to Juntura the train was into Juntura in 1913. Maybe a little bit before, then it came right on into Riverside on that same time when Harriman --- I mean it started from Ontario and it got to Juntura. ... when he got as far as Juntura, you know, I mean I think at about 1913, you know, I think the same year it came right into Riverside. I'll check up on it sometime. But I don't know now.

WALT: I think though while they were building it from here on up though, which is a couple three years, why I think this was the main freight stop here.

ILDA MAY: Well they trailed cattle here. Bill Hanley trailed cattle here ---

WALT: Oh, yes.

ILDA MAY: --- instead of Winnemucca.

MARCUS: I think what Pauline was asking, did the railroad make Riverside, or was there such a place before the train came in? Wasn't that what you meant?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

WALT: Well, I guess there was a Riverside ---

ILDA MAY: It was down by ---

WALT: Well, I'm sure there was a Riverside before that. There at Coxes, Mrs. Cox was one of the first postmistresses. Well I guess Mrs. Blaylock, the first --- Mrs. Blaylock might

have been the first postmistress. But they had a little old stone house here over on the river. And I think that might have been where the first post office was. They had a schoolhouse here, and then they had another schoolhouse back up the canyon there where --- above McRae's. Right along the road, there is a little one-room schoolhouse there. And I think Miss ---

PATTI: Where was the school here?

WALT: The school was right over, there was a big two room schoolhouse --- well, it was off over this way, oh it would be back of this building and quite a little ways over. It was standing until just a few years ago. Last three or four years it has been torn down. It was a large schoolhouse; I don't know why they ever built it. There was never that many ---

MARCUS: I'll have to tell you this story. Charlie Chapman tells about bringing a bunch, three and four year old steers from over at the Alvord to ship from here. And they were night herding of course. And they had about a 1,000 head of them. And they were night herding in up here by the Doman place here now, right in against one of those drip fences there. And he and Don Baker were night herding, said it was a nice night and evening, and 10 or 11 o'clock, and everything kind of laid down. And they were sitting on their horses, and said a roan steer got up, and he was curious and he came out and he walked right up and kind of smelled at his horse. And old Don chewed tobacco, and he just let fly, and hit that old roan steer between the eyes, and made a whoosh out of him, and said every steer was on their feet that quick. And when they caught the lead of them, they were almost to Riverside the next morning. (Laughter) They got down here in a hurry.

So they finally got them under control, and he said they were just starting into the stockyard up there with them, and the train come along, and they pulled the whistle on that train. And he said the steers just, they just exploded. And there was tent houses all around. And he said he was just a whipping over and under, trying to bend these steers.

He went between two tents, with a clothesline stretched between them. He left with these tents hanging on his saddle horn. (Laughter) He said women and kids come running out in all directions. (Laughter) Said to Frank Clerf, cost him several hundred dollars before he got that one straightened up. (Laughter)

WALT: Well, there was a railroad depot right here. Of course the railroad had watering, when they run the steam trains. They would have to have water facilities every so often. They had a big water tank here. They had one at Juntura, and they had one at Venator, one at Crane.

TOMMY: They had at Dunnean too, there at the siding there.

WALT: No, not one at Dunnean. They went on to Venator. And then they'd have to water up. And then they'd, of course their coal, they'd unload their coal along the railroad here, and then the section boys would coal those engines for them, you know. Once in awhile they'd have to shovel coals in there. And they'd have to knock those coal down with a fireman. And they'd water up here, and then they'd go on up above, and then they'd water up. Of course coming back, it didn't take as much steam. They could go quite a ways. But coming up, why --- And they had the depot right, setting right over there. It burned down about five or six years ago.

Then they used to have, they had a string of section houses over on the other side of the track. And they used to be real nice, well kept buildings. There were trees, and good yards, and lawns, and gardens. There is about three graves over there. I understand that some of the section men one time --- was a cold morning and they went over to Mrs. Shutter, and they wanted some alcohol to start their motor with, wood alcohol. So instead of starting the motor, they drank it. So they are buried over there. (Laughter)

MAN: They planted them.

WALT: They planted them there.

MAN: Probably preserved them.

WALT: Probably.

ROY: He was a colored guy, wasn't he Walt?

WALT: I don't know. I just think, one was. I don't know whether all three were or not.

ROY: They had a bunch of them, pretty near a whole crew of them, of colored guys.

MARCUS: Roy, where were the shearing corrals that you started shearing from?

ROY: Well, they were back up here quite a ways. Right along this side. Well on this side of the tracks, next to the river. And I don't know whether Walt remembers, probably your dad remembers, put the sheep in there to shear them.

WALT: Oh yes, he used to shear here. They moved them later though Roy, over here, you know.

ROY: Yeah, I remember they did. But they had 22 pens up there, you know, shearing pens. And they put two bands of sheep through there a day. They --- the year I sheared there, the first year I sheared there they sheared a 110,000 head of sheep there.

ILDA MAY: And you were the only shearer?

ROY: Yeah, I was the only one.

ILDA MAY: He did it all. (Laughter) Roy did it all.

ROY: No, by golly, I didn't help them too much. I was just learning.

MIMA: How many did you shear a day?

ROY: Huh?

MIMA: How many did you shear a day?

ILDA MAY: How many was ---

ROY: Oh, I don't think, I don't think I sheared, ever, probably 75, 80 a day that year. But I finally got so I could shear a 140, 150.

WALT: Well they said they used to shear as high as 40,000 sheep and more over the hill at Juntura too.

ROY: Yeah, I guess they did.

WALT: When everybody had sheep in this country.

ILDA MAY: Just think ---

ROY: The Pat Conley, and the Joyce's and --- all the people up around Steens Mountain, pretty near, and all come down here and sheared. Did you folks, dad ever shear here too?

TOMMY: No, we never did shear here. He had a plant of his own up there.

ROY: He just had his own plant up there.

TOMMY: And he started it about 1900, you know.

ROY: Probably did. Because I know they was going when I was just a little fellow. And --  
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TOMMY: Yeah, a lot of times, they, of course they drew sheep from the ... farther on up, you know. But for years there, there was over 100,000 sheared there at that old plant of ours, you know.

ROY: Yeah. Well I know ---

TOMMY: It was a 20-man plant.

ROY: Yeah, I sheared there a lot.

TOMMY: I know you sheared there.

ROY: I don't think --- they came in mostly from this way, the sheep did. And then they'd go out this way.

...

MARCUS: You want to go down there?

PAULINE: Sure, I wouldn't mind.

MARCUS: Let's walk down.

It's changed hands here over the years. Frank Grout was there for a while. Wilber Springer, and Paul Stewart were there to the early '30's.

ILDA MAY: It was way up at the mouth?

MARCUS: Yeah, where the trees are, right here.

ROY: It runs all the way back up ---

MARCUS: It runs back up in there, but this is the headquarters, right where these three or four trees are.

ROY: I think they had somewhere around 1400 acres up there.

MARCUS: And then, it was originally the old Jake Carey ---

WALLY: Jerry Stauffer owned it, and then Terry come in.

MARCUS: Terry Stauffer was the original owner of it.

WALLY: Yeah, Stauffer bought that --- Stauffer had it originally, and then Terry, who was related to Stauffer, you know.

ILDA MAY: Ed Stauffer married Linda Carey. Linda Carey was a sister to Jake.

WALLY: Terry's came first. And then they came down, Terry's came down here in about '85.

ROY: John Carey had a place back over here, around Little Creek, up the little ---

WOMAN: Who built these beautiful corrals?

ROY: There was some of them there when I first could remember.

MARCUS: Well Ilda May ---

ILDA MAY: Well where was the Clark place, where was Ray Clark?

WOMAN: Is this the old Johnson ---

ILDA MAY: Tell the rest of the story.

ROY: Well, that's about all.

ILDA MAY: Well Ray Clark was ... at Lawen and we never could play in the afternoon when our mother slept. We had to always play inside the house, and keep the screen doors locked. Because Ray Clark was always crazy, his whole life he was crazy.

ROY: Well, he was ---

ILDA MAY: And then in the end, right there, he choked his mother to death. And then he went to Pendleton.

ROY: Yeah, they just didn't get him quick enough. (Laughter)

MARCUS: Like old Scott Catterson, you know, they threw him in the bug house over in Pendleton two or three times. Every time he come out, he'd have a release, and he said he was the only sane Catterson in the bunch, and he had papers to prove it. (Laughter) Picked him up for discharge. Ed Witzel told me about this. Along in the spring of the year, when they let him out and he was feeling so good about it, he got down on his hands and knees, and bucked around all over the lawn. And they thought he'd gone off his rocker, and they threw him back in again. (Laughter) He died over there, he never got out again.

ROY: We was down there at the Mann Lake one time, and Arch Gibson was down there, of course with his camper, you know. And I guess he was the only, happened to be the only one there --- well that was Scott Catterson. And he come down there, and he was kind of off his rocker, and he was --- he was going to burn the whole place down. He was going to burn it up. Arch he talked to him, and he was scared all the time. He shivered in his boots, you know. And so he said, "Well you just wait until morning, and then we'll do it." He said, "Lets kind of hold off during the night." And he said, and he finally stalled him around, until he got word out someplace, and they got the authorities down there, come down and picked Scott up.

MARCUS: Well that's the same place he dragged Lyle Vickers out there, and chopped

his head off like a chicken, old ax ---

ROY: Lyle was living there at the same time.

MARCUS: You betcha. Tell old Lyle how a chicken hopped all around when he cut the head off of him, and that was just the way he was going to go. (Laughter) ... old Lyle's head on the chopping block, and he was just a kicking and screaming bloody murder.

WOMAN: That was over at the Alvord, wasn't it?

MARCUS: Mann Lake, yeah.

MIMA: Which one of the Cattersons was it that was cut open with a knife?

MARCUS: That was him.

MIMA: Scott.

MARCUS: His dad did that on him. Down at The Narrows.

...

MARCUS: 1929, I went up, stayed all night at the New Diamond Ranch. And he got, took cattle there, and took them over to Crane, 418 head of yearlings. And old Scott was working there. And we slept in that old bunkhouse that night. And I thought, if he figured out who I am, he might decide to wring my neck. I never slept one damn wink. I knew right where the door was all the time. (Laughter)

WOMAN: ... got outside.

MARCUS: You bet.

ILDA MAY: Well, why did your father do it? Did he attack your dad?

MARCUS: Yeah. You know, he was an extra powerful man. The folks said he could lasso a horse in the corral and hold any of them. It didn't make, he didn't need a stumping post. He could hold a horse. ... He just kept after my dad, and he said, "I'll knife you." Said, "I'm not able to handle you," but he said, "I'll equal this thing out." And he finally laid him wide open. So my dad had been a medic in the Spanish American War. Of course

they had to go to Burns to get a doctor to sew him up. So while he was gone, my dad got him up in the bar, and poured a little whiskey on him, had him all sewed up and fixed up, when he got through there. And when the doctor --- the job was all done. Had a few more drinks, and went on about their business.

ROY: Yeah.

ILDA MAY: Probably sewed him up with rawhide string.

MARCUS: Don't know what he used, but he got everything back in side anyway.

ILDA MAY: Was your father as big as Fred Haines?

MARCUS: No, no he wasn't.

ILDA MAY: Fred was tall.

MARCUS: Yes.

ILDA MAY: Taller than Charlie.

MARCUS: Uh huh. No, my dad was shorter, stockier fellow.

ILDA MAY: Than Charlie?

...

ILDA MAY: They had one child ... and when it came to school, he couldn't pass anything. But he had a tinker shop, and he tinkered away all the time, just all the time, you know. Well finally I guess they kept giving him social promotions, and social promotions. And then finally one day he took this tinkering to the U. S. Government, and they paid him two million dollars. Well then he wanted to do something for his family because they had put up with him, you know. And he wanted to buy them a lovely home in Pasadena, and do something. And no, no, Grace said, "You can just buy me a new refrigerator." That's all she wanted.

WOMAN: What did he make, Ilda May?

ILDA MAY: Well, it was something to do with tektronics; it was too bright for me. But at

the time he got married, my Aunt Edith was down there visiting her daughter, Ruby Hayes Urkenbrecker (sp.?). And Ruby Hayes was busy, and her husband was busy, and they wouldn't take Aunt Edith to the wedding. So then of course when he sold out to the government for two million, well the Los Angeles papers were just filled with it, you know. And Aunt Edith read the headlines, and she said to her daughter, "Now don't you wish you'd have gone to his wedding?"

PAULINE: Who was that, Ilda May?

ILDA MAY: Ella Johnson --- no Grace Carey who married Jim Dillon.

PAULINE: It was their son, it was their son?

ILDA MAY: Their son. Their one and only son, Clifford.

PATTI: Where are we going now, Marcus?

MARCUS: Home.

... (Group sings songs on the way home.)

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