

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #150 - Sides C/D

Subject: Pete Clemens

Place:

Date: May 4, 1988

Interviewer: Dorothea Purdy

DOROTHEA PURDY: Okay, we'll go back to your grandmother and you can tell about how he was killed. We don't have that in this, and if you would tell me a little bit about that and I can include that.

PETE CLEMENS: Uh huh. Well, let's see your asking about ---

DOROTHEA: Your Grandfather Thomas.

PETE: You'll transfer this off?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: Well my Grandmother Clemens she came to Harney County in the '70's, late '70's, and she was accompanied, her and her husband and Rye Smyth and his wife Nellie came with them. They were both young brides and they camped for a while at the hot springs south of Hines. From there their husbands went out and they finally found where they wanted to go, that was over to Happy Valley. So they moved over there, it was a long towards in October, I think, and they took up homesteads. The Smyth's took up a homestead in Happy Valley, and my grandmother and her husband; they took up a homestead in Barton Lake.

Well he went to work for Peter French because they had to have some way of making a living while they were getting their homestead proved up on. And she stayed at home, and in the evening, at night she would sleep in a haystack with a ten-barrel

shotgun because of the Indians and different people around.

And so they went over one Sunday to the Smyth place, at the Smyth's home, and he was, apparently he was a horse breaker. And he was breaking this horse, and apparently his foot hung in the stirrup and he was killed. I know a story my grandmother said that she looked for three days and finally found his wedding ring in the dust and dirt.

And then it, later, long towards the latter part of, I think it was 1882 she met my Grandfather Peter Clemens and they were married in Canyon City. And there was a man here, a lot of people probably heard, Todhunter was his name, and he was the best man. I forget whom the lady, the bridesmaid was, but he was the best man. DOROTHEA: Toadhunter?

PETE: Todhunter, yeah he was ---

DOROTHEA: Was that the full name, or was that ---

PETE: That's his last name.

DOROTHEA: Toadhunter, T O A D ?

PETE: T O A D, Toadhunter, Todhunter (corrected to Todhunter), he was, you know he was with Miller and Lux, you know. I could probably find something up there in the Peter French and all that stuff, there would be something of his. Henry Miller, that's where he went --- that --- could get his name, his full name is.

And so they came out to Burns and he homesteaded up at Poison Creek, right at the head of the canyon, and that's where he established his home, and that's where he was, the ranch is still in the Clemens name.

DOROTHEA: That's where Delmer is?

PETE: Where Delmer Clemens now lives. Previously his father owned it, and then he sold it to Delmer.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: So that's really the homestead of the Clemens' family.

DOROTHEA: Now is that where your father was raised then, is in, on Poison Creek?

PETE: My father and his older brother Clay, and younger brother Glen. And there was also a girl born of this family, but she was the first one, and she died when she was just one year old. And I know that Bessie Clemens could give you her name. But she just, but that's all they had was the four children. Glen was the youngest, Clay the oldest, and my father in the middle.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Now your grandfather came, or your mother's father came from, McCloud, came from Edinburgh, Scotland.

PETE: Edinburgh, Scotland, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Can you spell Edinburgh for me?

PETE: E D ---

DOROTHEA: Okay, I've got E D I N B O R O U G H, is that pretty close?

PETE: That's right, Edinburgh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Then we'll go on down to the spelling. Now your grandmother's name was Lotta?

PETE: Lotta J.

DOROTHEA: Jane or J?

PETE: J., Jean.

DOROTHEA: Just Jean, okay.

PETE: She always just, she always signed everything Lotta J. Jean was her name.

DOROTHEA: Jean, okay, that's Lotta Jean then. And that's spelled L O T T A ?

PETE: Uh huh, L O T T A, yes.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And you had one sister, and her name was Irene.

PETE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Now she was married to a Petersen.

PETE: To Anton Petersen.

DOROTHEA: Who?

PETE: Anton, A N T O N.

DOROTHEA: A N ---

PETE: Anton, A N T O N, P E T E R S E N.

DOROTHEA: S E N. Now is he related to Shelby and all of them, or is he a different bunch?

PETE: Oh no, he is different; he is from down to Astoria.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he is different.

PETE: He was a newspaperman.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Okay, the grade school, eighth grade principal I think it is, W. M. Sutton.

PETE: Sutton, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: S U T T O N ?

PETE: S U T T O N, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: He was, he was a rough one. You know actually I believe I gained more knowledge that year in the eighth grade, see I came from Pendleton to graduate here; I'd been over to Pendleton. See my folks were over there for five years, so we came back and I took the eighth grade under Sutton. And I was, afterwards I told him, I said, "You know Mr. Sutton I think I've learned more under you than any teacher I ever had." You either did it or he'd lower the boom on you. He wouldn't get by with it nowadays.

DOROTHEA: Once in awhile we got some of those kind of teachers. I think Ina Field was that way with our generation. I think that we probably learned more out of her than

any other teacher that we had.

PETE: Out of her, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay, when you first met Betty, it says here she came into Burns working for a doctor. Now it was kind of muffled, and I picked up on a grounded hospital.

PETE: Oh, well ---

DOROTHEA: She worked as a bacteriologist for a doctor?

PETE: Dr. H. Grund. (Corrected to Dr. Ground)

DOROTHEA: Dr. Brown?

PETE: Grund, G R U N D.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Grund.

PETE: Dr. H. T. Grund, was his initials.

DOROTHEA: H. T. G R U N D.

PETE: G R U N D.

DOROTHEA: G R U N D, okay.

PETE: He came to Burns from Virginia, Minnesota. He was a Hines contract doctor.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And she took blood samples and that kind of thing, and that's what she did?

PETE: And also helped out in the surgery. In those days they had to do everything.

DOROTHEA: So she is a nurse, or she is a bacteriologist?

PETE: No, she's a bacteriologist.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And you met her on a, after you'd come off of a loop-o-plane, apparently a carnival was here or something?

PETE: There was a carnival here, and it was right there where the Shell Oil Station is, over back towards, right in there it was up. And Wally had met her a day or two before I had. And so we came off --- she was with the Gravens who, Mrs. Gravens was a cook up

there, you know. And so we went over there, and so that's where I first met my wife.

DOROTHEA: And the Gravens, were they some relation to ---

PETE: No.

DOROTHEA: Just different people.

PETE: Marvel Graven.

DOROTHEA: Marvel.

PETE: Well yes, he was Marvel Graven's uncle.

DOROTHEA: Uncle.

PETE: And she was a cook at the hospital.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she cooked there then?

PETE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And you were with Wally?

PETE: Welcome.

DOROTHEA: Welcome.

PETE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: There was Wally Welcome, there was Bucky Leonard, I forget who the other girl, oh Mary, Wally's date was Mary. I forget what her name was.

DOROTHEA: Okay, you mentioned how many children you have, but you say you have two boys and a daughter, but you don't give their names. Our daughter ---

PETE: The oldest is Peter Roland.

DOROTHEA: R ---

PETE: R O L A N D. And Joan Irene was in the middle.

DOROTHEA: And she is Henry?

PETE: Henry, Joan Henry, H E N R Y.

DOROTHEA: R Y.

PETE: And then David Clemens.

DOROTHEA: David.

PETE: He is the youngest.

DOROTHEA: And now it says our oldest son lives in Walla Walla, Washington?

PETE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And our youngest son lives in Medford, in Jacksonville. Now are ---

PETE: Well he, see he lived in Medford, but he was the manager of the Jacksonville, are right there together.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: But when he bought his home, it was in Medford; it's only five minutes from Jacksonville.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Okay, and when you were a boy of sixteen you used to go out with a team and harrow to the race track and drag it down so that the horses ---

PETE: Well for the racehorses, so the racehorses could run on it.

DOROTHEA: Train there.

PETE: Train there, yes.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: But in those days, there was only such equipment --- but the county didn't even own anything that would do that.

DOROTHEA: Now is that the track that is there now, or is, you mentioned something about there being a track up by the, where the Pine Room sets now. Is that ---

PETE: Well the whole thing went in there, that's where you went into it. And Egan Street was the backstretch, and it was approximately the, the grandstand stuff is where the Armory is right now.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay, okay.

PETE: Right in that area.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: But the entrance into it, you know, they always had an entrance and it was approximately up there someplace along about the Pine Room. But I didn't do any work there, I was too young at that time for that.

DOROTHEA: No, this is when you just, your father sent you over and you did the harrowing and the disking and stuff. And you worked with three horses and you'd work up the track and stir up a little dust.

PETE: Yeah, that's about all I did do. There is no water there unless you spit I guess.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now here is something else that I didn't understand, it says when I first started running the races I cleaned the sagebrush down there. Now is that ---

PETE: Well no, when I first started to write the races, I was the racing secretary ...

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: When I was the racing secretary and starting to write the races, that's what I mean, you make out the races, see.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: But all we had to do is, like they said, lean against the sagebrush, you know.

DOROTHEA: Lean against it, okay. Lean against it, okay.

PETE: You can put laughingly, I said that see.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's where I had a little problem. I was trying to ---

PETE: In other words I didn't have, they didn't have any building into it, just --- Generally I think it was the first guy out, I'd be out on the hood of my car writing these fellows, which wasn't complicated in those days, as it is now.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Okay, now I'm understanding. Okay.

PETE: That was just an expression.

DOROTHEA: I need to get around you people a little bit more so I can understand some of this.

PETE: The next place, up there where you come in the entrance they used to have a little ticket office. Just wide enough for a man to get in and sell tickets. Then I moved that down there, and I used that for a little bit. Then finally I talked them into building me a little office down there, you know.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now we're back to the racing. And there was, these main people were on the fair board, and they got the state legalized for pari-mutuel betting. And that's where they first got some money to have these county fairs.

PETE: I think that was in 1935, Dorothea.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, okay.

PETE: In think that's when they first started getting money for the pari-mutuels.

DOROTHEA: And that was just the beginning. And then it says the only way they had racing, they had to, they had these three gentleman, Gus Bardwell, Nollie Reed.

PETE: No, no, that was in the rodeo.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: They had nothing to do with the racing.

DOROTHEA: They had the rodeo, okay. Okay, that's what these are. But the names are Gus Bardwell, and I don't --- Nollie?

PETE: Nollie Reed.

DOROTHEA: N O L I E ?

PETE: N O L I E, (Corrected to Nollie) Nollie, that's what it was.

DOROTHEA: And a Thompson. Now is that ---

PETE: Joe Thompson.

DOROTHEA: Who?

PETE: Joe Thompson.

DOROTHEA: Joe Thompson, okay.

PETE: He lived up there where, you know where George Hugget used to live up there across the street from the courthouse, the big house?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: That was where Joe Thompson --- He had a ... right here down town. And he was the president of, see that was different from the fair board. They had nothing to do with the fair board. When the fair board, they bought those fellows out, see they bought that fairgrounds for ten thousand dollars as it was. It was a white elephant then. They went broke here in the '20's trying to have a rodeo here.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: So they were sitting there with a white elephant and that's when the Harney County Fair Association started, they bought that from them at that time.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Okay, then that's Nollie, I've got his name spelled N O L L I E, and I think I'll just leave it that way.

PETE: Uh huh. He was related to, oh Reed, you know, ---

DOROTHEA: Wally?

PETE: Well Wally Reeds would have been his nephew.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: And his father, see, he was a druggist too, Nollie Reed.

DOROTHEA: He was a druggist, oh, oh, I see.

PETE: All three of them, all three of them were druggists. The older brother, Homer Reed, he was the oldest. Then Nollie and then, can't think of Wally's father, he would know who I'm talking about.

DOROTHEA: I didn't know them, so I ---

PETE: Oh you, you knew Wally's father, he was just a --- He quit being a pharmacist, and he used to cut hair.

DOROTHEA: Became a barber, right.

PETE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: But I can't think of his first name.

PETE: But I'll think of it before you get through there. Teddy, Teddy Reed.

DOROTHEA: Teddy, right, right, Teddy Reed, right.

PETE: And they, at the time they run that drug store they, all three of them were pharmacists.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now we'll go on down to, there was Hotchkiss on there. Don Hotchkiss and Cecil Bennett, and Morgan Timms.

PETE: Morgan Timms, and then Art Sawyer was in there, was working in there. You know he was the county agent at that time.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: And oh there was other men. Just off hand there have been a lot, Murl Coe and, you know, a lot of businessmen up town here were connected with that. It took a bunch of them there --- my father worked on it, Joe Fine worked on it, and everybody. I think at that time Nollie Reed, he was still here. All the, there was a lot of people in town that worked on it, you know.

DOROTHEA: And they worked on the fair, the rodeo part of it?

PETE: Well no, well some of them --- now Gus worked on the rodeo. Because he used to go around, like to Molalla and be the arena director. He worked on it, and some of them worked on the, the beginning was working on the 4-H and the premiums and all that. It took quite a few men. It would be pretty hard to just single out two or three and say they,

and there was a lot of women that worked on that too. I imagine Helen Landers' mother worked on that a lot too.

DOROTHEA: Naomi (Walter).

PETE: Naomi, uh huh. It was an effort by a lot of people in Harney County. I think your mother worked on it too quite a bit.

DOROTHEA: Well she worked more with the kids than any ---

PETE: Well that's what I mean; it was on, the whole ---

DOROTHEA: --- thing, you know, like that. I don't know if she really had too much to do with the fair itself. But she did push the kids a lot, so ---

PETE: The 4-H stuff like that see.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: But it was all interwoven together, you see, as far as that was concerned.

DOROTHEA: Okay, I'd like to have you explain --- okay, your first; Dad had a horse called Bird.

PETE: Well they asked me about my father, and I said well he, when he was just a young boy, at that time the race track was down where, where you go out of Burns where Teddy Reed lived there in that ... Well that's where the race track was in those days, early days. And he had a, in looking, going back see I went over all the history. I've got a history of all the racing. I went to this, you know, ... First I have where he run a horse was this Bird down there. But he also had a real good horse that he; a gray horse that he run called Sullivan.

DOROTHEA: Sullivan.

PETE: Sullivan, uh huh. And he was a pretty good racehorse.

DOROTHEA: Now the Bird, did he just spell it B I R D ?

PETE: B I R D, yeah. But he was just a real young boy when he, this race horse Bird.

DOROTHEA: Okay now then, I need some help on this. You've got some, you're baby-sitting your horses that are going to foal here pretty quick. So you've got one promising two year old in training. Now I couldn't understand who your trainer was.

PETE: Bill Kagge, Jr.

DOROTHEA: Bill Kagge. Oh, Kagge, okay.

PETE: K A G G E.

DOROTHEA: G G E.

PETE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Okay, and they're training him down at Lebanon?

PETE: Well he was, but now he's at Boise.

DOROTHEA: He's in Boise now, okay. Well he run far.

PETE: And I've another horse that's running there, Steel Cutter, he's running tonight.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now he's S T E E L C U T T E R.

PETE: Yeah, just Steel, S T E E L, and Cutter, C U T T E R.

DOROTHEA: Is, are you using this as one name or two?

PETE: It's two names, Steel Cutter.

DOROTHEA: Two names, okay, Steel Cutter. Okay then. Okay Glen, did he spell his name with one N, or did he have two?

PETE: Just one N.

DOROTHEA: Just one. I thought it was, I remember him. I got tickled at some of the things that --- Glen was quite a man.

PETE: Yeah, he was a character. But kids always liked, when we were young, we all wanted to go out there and help him hay. He'd let, you could smoke, boy if I smoked around Uncle Clay he would just give me the devil, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: And even before we started to smoke, he was always good, he'd always have treats for us in the evening, you know. And he had a lot of these young high school fellows liked to come out and work there too because he knew how to handle a bunch of young boys.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, he was good. And he always had big long stories to tell you too, you know.

PETE: Oh yeah, he had some dillies. And Aunt Beulah was awful nice to get along with. The young people always got along nice with her too. She was always ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she was ---

PETE: I used to go out and stay when they were clearing all that land. Went out there, and he was grubbing it out, and Beulah was with a pitchfork and putting it in piles and burning it. They cleaned that whole flat down there, between the two of them.

DOROTHEA: Now you're talking about Red Walter worked down for Miller and Lux. And he used to harness the horses, he and Pete Elmore.

PETE: Pete Elmore, yeah.

DOROTHEA: That's Bonnie's dad?

PETE: Yeah, Bonnie's father.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: And I forget the rest of them was. They harnessed all the horses. All you did was get on your rig when they got through. I'd say, "Don't hit them." You knew they were going to run. I'd say, "Don't hit them in the face with a sack." I didn't care, but I had to go two, about two gates with those things a running. Once I got an animal out in the open, or on their feet, I didn't care then. But I saw many of them ... go high in the air.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: Guys just fly, you know. And they thought it was a big kick, you know.

DOROTHEA: They thought it was funny to watch them, huh?

PETE: Yeah, and about the time you got a horse gentle; they'd take him away from you and give you another wild one.

DOROTHEA: Oh yes.

PETE: Oh that was ...

DOROTHEA: You were busy breaking horses for somebody else.

PETE: You'd get out here, there would be about three hundred people staying there at the Island Ranch.

DOROTHEA: I'll be darned.

PETE: And you didn't have no place, you just went down there on a shock a hay with your bedroll, that's where you slept in those days. But they'd bring, they'd get out of Portland and bring a whole carload of those winos out of Burnside.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: And do you know, of all that thing, few of them got skid up, but there was never anybody ever killed.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: And how it ever happened, I don't know. Must have been an act of God.

DOROTHEA: My biggest fear I think of going through a gate on a horse that was running away or something, was catching my legs.

PETE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Oh man, I just about, petrified me.

PETE: Yeah. But they didn't care, they had a team of people building bucks and putting machinery together.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: And somebody tear up a rig, they'd just hook on another one. DOROTHEA:

That's you, smoked down there too.

PETE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and the Chinese cooks down there, did they, were they from Burns or did they go get them from someplace?

PETE: Well, someone from Burns, but sometimes they'd bring them in from San Francisco. And then they used Chinese cooks there for years at the Island Ranch, their headquarters and stuff.

DOROTHEA: Did the Indians work down there too, or did they hire many Indians?

PETE: They, the Indians didn't work down there much. They'd work around here for the private people. But apparently they, I don't know why they didn't hire them. But maybe the Indians didn't, afraid that they --- but in those days when I was young, you know, an Indian, the white man wouldn't eat with an Indian at the table.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: Because it just wasn't done. And finally I know, when the folks ... the threshing crew, the men would all eat, and then the Indians would come in afterwards. Then it got to the point they got to intermingle. But some fellows would not sit down at a table with an Indian. A lot of men it didn't make any difference. Finally they just got to get over that prejudice, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. I think my grandfather was one of those. He, well we always had Indians working for us, and Grandpa always came in and ate first, and then the Indians came in and ate later. Of course I just thought it was because we didn't have enough room at our table.

PETE: Yeah. I know Scarface Charlie ---

DOROTHEA: Charlie.

PETE: --- used to work for your grandfather.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: Because one time we were, when your grandfather first bought that place over there that the Reed boy has, we fixed the fence between us.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: And he had Scarface Charlie there working for him. He lived, just had a little place just the other side of your grandfather's.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Yeah, they had a lot of Indians working out there, especially during haying season and, you know.

PETE: Yeah. But it was, a lot of times the white men would all eat first, and then the Indians come in, or they'd have another table for them over there.

DOROTHEA: Well we just had the one table. And I know my mom would fix a meal and Grandpa would come in and he'd eat. And Daddy, you know, and then he would eat. And then when they got done then the Indians would come in and eat.

PETE: Yeah, that's right, yeah.

DOROTHEA: I always thought, well we must not have enough room. Of course I wasn't very big, so ---

PETE: No, that was kind of a custom. Well the, those Indians come down, and lots of times --- see they didn't have any money, and there was, in the wintertime they had no flour or anything else. They'd eat jackrabbits and, so there were three or four of them would come down.

And in those days we all planted, our folks planted this turkey red wheat, and they'd, you'd take it up to the grist mill, which at that time was --- the first one over here where Al Welcome lived, and then it burnt down. And then they moved it up where, the other side of the Indian Camp there, you remember that big building there, where the grist mill, with a swimming pool?

DOROTHEA: I probably do, yeah.

PETE: You might have been pretty young when that burnt down too. You'd take it up, and they'd either charge you so much a pound, or they'd take a percentage. And so we'd always have our own flour. And they'd come down here in the wintertime, and my dad would give them flour and bacon and, you know, meat. And they'd always come back and work for it in haying.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, pay for it that way.

PETE: The squaws would go get these willows, and they never bothered you at all, never come near the house, unless Mother would sometimes hire them to come over maybe, you know, help scrub or wash or something like that when she was busy cooking. And they were not to be seen when the men come in to eat or anything like that. But Mother always tried to slip them some food over there too. Because she kind of felt sorry for them, you know, and the little kids, you know. And they come down there early sometimes in the spring, you know, when the camas comes up?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: They'd go out there, well they'd be over there at Hilton's too, ... Take all their shoes and socks off, go out there and they'd pull that camas up. They'd bring it up and put it on their little old hacks and take it up there and spread it all out. And then they'd take the bulb, you know, and they'd grind it up into a meal, and that's what they lived on. The previous years when they didn't have any deer, that's what they'd winter on.

DOROTHEA: What kind of stuff do you think ---

PETE: Well it was a meal, it was that ---

DOROTHEA: Kind of like a cereal?

PETE: Well, just like a cereal, like Cream of Wheat or something like that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: And they would dry that bulb and then they'd grind it all up into a meal. But it was funny, you'd see all those women and kids out there, no socks on, and wading out there and pulling up those ... My dad kind of liked to have the camas, because you wanted to get rid of it. It's a little bitter for cattle, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Well they won't eat it after, you know, it gets a certain stage, anyway.

PETE: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So we've got a lot of that growing in our meadows right now that's, in fact I guess maybe you could spray it or something. But boy it sure ruins the hay.

PETE: Yeah, it's bitter. And that's, that's how these Indians here --- to the other Indians they're called the digger Indians. Because now over to Pendleton, or all up, a lot of, they had lots of deer and elk. But here these Indians had very little, and they had to eat roots, so they called them the digs.

DOROTHEA: The digger Indians. Huh.

PETE: All your plains are called digger Indians.

DOROTHEA: I hope I don't miss anything. Okay, now we're back to your horses again. Shy of Cash; is that the one you retired?

PETE: Yes, I retired Shy of Cash and Raspberry Jam.

DOROTHEA: Raspberry Jam.

PETE: You know, that's a funny name, but you know he was a favorite at Boise. He was not, he didn't always win, but he was always in the money. I remember when we bought him, I went over there and bought him, so I was sitting at the race, and there was a lady right behind me, see. And somebody over there said, "Well you think Raspberry will run in the money?" And so Betty and I just, I said to Betty, "Well I hope so." This woman heard it, see. She said, "Are you the people that bought Raspberry Jam?" I said, "Oh

yes." She was a trainer. She says, "I know, and I trained him." She said, "He'll get in the money." And said, "I'll tell you he'll come by the first time doing a mile and a sixteenth, and he'll be trailing the field." But she said, "You watch him over there right straight across the back stretch," she said, "he'll turn on his first after burner," and she said, "when he hits the stretch he'll turn on the other after burner." (Laughter) That's the way he runs, see.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: She knew exactly. And, but the people always, they'd bet on him to place and show, you know. He was a horse, if he could get through, didn't get shut off, and he could get through he very seldom lost a race.

DOROTHEA: Did he ever race in Burns?

PETE: Yeah. No, no, he didn't, no.

DOROTHEA: I was going to say, I don't remember the name.

PETE: No, I never raced him here. I always went on through from here to the fair at Salem.

DOROTHEA: Oh, oh, yeah, because we're, yeah.

PETE: Yeah, we always went right on through to Salem all the time.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now Shy of Cash won the Burns mile. And the other horse won the Red S?

PETE: Yeah, Shy of Cash won the Burns mile and the derby. He was a router. And Steel Cutter won the Red S.

DOROTHEA: Won the Red S. And that's the ---

PETE: That's the one that's run now.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Okay, and now when you were a little boy a lot of people look at me and don't believe it, but I came from Pendleton to Burns on a stagecoach. And I've got to

know what this place is. You stopped at, it was forty below zero, and they stopped at Southworths.

PETE: I was little, I was just two years old, and my mother and my grandmother, the three of us came from Pendleton. Well, all the way through, so when they left, here is what Mother and Grandmother both told me. When they left it was awful cold, when they left Canyon City, which was the main town in those days. And it was dark when they got to Southworths, and that's where they generally, the stage would stop and the people would stay all night. And of course the women got out of there they, they'd used to put bricks and stuff and keep their feet warm, you know. Got to start, go in and this man come out, he said, "God don't let those two women and that baby get in, because we just took a man out of here with smallpox. And you take them on down to Lincoln's." And Lincoln's lived right where that building burned down in Seneca. You know the ---

DOROTHEA: The store, the main ---

PETE: Yeah, the store burned down. Well Lincolns, people named Lincolns, had a farm there. And so they stayed there all night with the Lincolns. And my mother said, "Boy was I glad to find someplace warm." And so then the next day, they didn't leave until about 10 o'clock in the morning because it was so bitter cold. Then they went to, finally they went on to Silvies and they stopped there for a little bit. Then they went on to, well where, onto where Mecham, stage stop, that was where the Purdy's lived.

DOROTHEA: Mecham?

PETE: See that belonged to Mecham, it was that big white house, you know, that burnt down before they, the other house.

DOROTHEA: Now I wonder how you spell that. M I ---

PETE: Mechnam, M E C H N A M.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And you said something about then they went, the people that were

there owned the Imperial ---

PETE: Hotel, that was Mechnam, Phil Mechnam.

DOROTHEA: --- Hotel. Okay. And what was his first name?

PETE: Phil.

DOROTHEA: Phil. And then you went on to another, you got a pair of horses there and your mother said that the snow was deep.

PETE: They got new horses, you know, stage. They took on new horses and they went as far as the Griever place. That's right there ---

DOROTHEA: Griever?

PETE: You know up there where ---

DOROTHEA: It says Cold Springs, up there where ---

PETE: Cold Springs, it was the Griever place. You know as you went into, you know where that old house and stuff is in that flat there?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, Cold Springs.

PETE: Yeah, that was the Griever place.

DOROTHEA: Griever, G R ---

PETE: G R I E V E R, I guess, I forget how they spell it.

DOROTHEA: I E V E R, okay.

PETE: And see that ---

DOROTHEA: It says Widow; I've got Widow Beaver.

PETE: They always called it the Widow Griever's place.

DOROTHEA: Griever, okay the Widow Griever, okay.

PETE: The Widow Griever. She was that mother of that Mrs. Melvin, you remember her, that tall ---

DOROTHEA: Melvin?

PETE: She used to work up to the hospital once, the old hospital.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah, uh huh.

PETE: The Melvin's.

DOROTHEA: I know there must be some more names here. Okay, where, you have a big barn dance whenever you built a new barn. Where Stafford lives now was a Dixon place?

PETE: Yeah, the Dixon place. And Mr. and Mrs. Dixon was the mother of Mrs. Tom Baker and Mrs. Frank Whiting. They were the Dixon girls.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And how, would you have any idea, D I X O N ?

PETE: D I X O N, yeah.

DOROTHEA: X O N. Okay. Now they were who, Tom Baker and ---

PETE: Mrs. Tom Baker and Mrs. Frank Whiting were the two Dixon girls.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: And at the present time, they finally moved Grandma Dixon into Burns, and where Olivia Withers resides now is the Grandma Dixon house, up on the hill there.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

PETE: Up on the hill there, next to Betty Eshelby.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, Eshelbys.

PETE: That little house there. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Next door.

PETE: They figured that, finally moved Grandma Dixon in, thought that big house there was too much for her to live alone, you know. So they talked her into selling the house, the ranch, and they bought that little house up there. I think at that time Ches Dalton lived in it, or somebody. But anyway they bought it for Grandma Dixon before she --- Then after she passed away then Harry Withers and, who married, Harry Withers, Sr. who

married ---

DOROTHEA: Olivia.

PETE: Olivia, that's where they resided. She does, still resides there.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Okay, then we went up and we had a potluck on the courthouse lawn. Is that the courthouse that there is, is there now, or was there ever another courthouse?

PETE: No, it was the old courthouse.

DOROTHEA: The old courthouse.

PETE: And that's where they would have the Pioneer's Reunion. Which in those days was bigger than the Fourth of July here at Burns. It was probably the biggest event for all of Harney County, was the Pioneer's Reunion.

DOROTHEA: And that was held in what, during the Fourth of July or ---

PETE: No, it was generally in June, about the ---

DOROTHEA: About the same time as now?

PETE: Same time. First or second Saturday in June. And people would come from the south end of the county. They'd start pulling in here on Monday, a week before the thing. They'd be here all--- and I remember Mrs. Baker, you know, lived up the river, what was her name? You know Bob Baker; anyway her parents would come up here every year to the, out there. And people would come in, in their buggies and stuff, you know, all that way. And the Smyth's would all come from Happy Valley and they'd spend a week over here visiting and going around. And it was quite a social deal for the people to get together, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: And the Pioneer's Reunion was first established in 1916, that's when it was first established.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

PETE: I've got a picture of that. I was a little boy, but I've got a picture of that. My mother and I and my sister we were standing there by the, in front of the Burns Hotel, which is where Ereno's Department Store is now.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: And they had the band there, and all the horses, and men a horseback. And there was a lot of fellows there with --- Mr. Mahon, he was there, and my father. There was a lot of ---

DOROTHEA: Mr. who?

PETE: Mahon, that would have been Pearl Smyth's father, you know, the Pearl Smyth over at Diamond.

DOROTHEA: M A, how do you ---

PETE: M A H O N, Mahon, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: But that was when they decided to establish a Pioneer's Reunion, and that's when it was first set up, 1916.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Okay, this Rena Beers is one of the different, older ladies, and she's done a lot with the Indians, I feel. She is also one of our main exhibitors in the crops division, or you know at the, like our vegetables and things. She didn't enter last year, but maybe her garden didn't grow or something. Gee she does a good job.

PETE: Yeah, she has been a lot of help like in the early days when they had no money here or anything. Finally the children out here were getting that triatoma, you know, they were going blind.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: And so she worked with the children. So finally they got a bus and they took a

whole carload of them over to Pendleton, it was really with her effort that she got this all done. And even after that she would take, oh these last few years, if some Indian would get sick she'll take them to Portland. She has been a tremendous lady up there to, with the other ladies, to do things for the Indian people, you know. Her maiden name is Rena Adams, and then she ---

DOROTHEA: Rena Adams.

PETE: Adams, and then she married Wayne Beers. This Delmer Adams that died here awhile back, you know, the Indian, that was her son, one of her sons.

DOROTHEA: Oh it was? Boy he got cancer, that was such a shame too.

PETE: Uh huh, just a young man too.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, he was.

PETE: Terrific silversmith, you know, made some beautiful things here.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, really good. Okay, now then we're going on down to, what are we talking about here, we're talking about there was a captain at Camp Harney, and he filed on some land and then turned around and sold it to Pete French.

PETE: Uh huh, it was our home ranch here.

DOROTHEA: What was?

PETE: The home ranch, right here.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's right here?

PETE: Right here. He was a captain at Camp Harney. And a lot of people called it Fort Harney, but it was no Fort it was a Camp.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: And then he sold it to, apparently he was leaving, and he sold it to Peter French, and Peter French was going to build a big home here for his socialite wife from San Francisco. But he never got her up here, and in the meanwhile they got a divorce. So

then he sold it to a bachelor named McMinemy.

DOROTHEA: And I've got that spelled Mc M I N E M Y.

PETE: N E Y.

DOROTHEA: N E Y ?

PETE: Yeah. McMinemy. And you know where you cross the cattle guard up here?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: Well there used to be a gate there. And he was, I always put this in, but he was great to go to town to get drunk. He was tighter than a drum, wouldn't spend money on anything but himself, and boy he'd get drunk. And they found him there one morning, he either fell in the ditch and drown, or he had a heart attack.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he's the one?

PETE: Yeah, yeah, I've heard about that. Yeah. Somebody come down there, his saddle horse was standing there, and there he was laying in the ditch.

DOROTHEA: All of his relatives were back in Kansas.

PETE: Yeah, back in Kansas. I think there was 22 of them had to sign the, going ---

DOROTHEA: Twenty-two?

PETE: Twenty-two nieces and nephews, see he was a bachelor.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: And he left it to his nieces and nephews. I remember when the folks, I can't find it right now, but I've got the deed that showed all this, all of them had to sign it, see.

DOROTHEA: A list, huh?

PETE: Yeah, a quick claim deal. And so they wanted to settle the estate, you know, and they couldn't pay at all until they got a warranty deed on it, you know. So I think it was 22 nieces and nephews. What he did, Peter, he traded Peter French this place for some land down there, and then he paid him \$370 or something besides for this place. Of

course that was a lot of money in those days, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I, you know, Daddy told about somebody paying him a \$1.75 for a days work. And he said he had a lot of money.

PETE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I thought \$1.75, you know.

PETE: I worked many a day for a dollar a day. Everybody else did. Here during that depression, there was a lot of fellows worked for fifty cents a day.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: Some worked for their board and room, yeah. Of course a dollar you could do a lot with a dollar in those days. You could buy a pair of Levis for a dollar, you see.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: And it was just difference in what you could buy. In my day, well I mean, when I, in late 1929 and '30 in there, somebody come into a store, a grocery store and buy ten dollars, you put out the red carpet for them. I mean you could fill up the back of a pickup with ten dollars, you know. That was a lot. But of course things have changed.

DOROTHEA: Boy I'll tell you, have they.

PETE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay, we're going down to, we're going to go on down and they had a cleaning establishment and there was a fellow by the name of Gronsville, G R O ---

PETE: Oh yeah, Willis Roundsville.

DOROTHEA: Okay, can you spell that?

PETE: R O ---

DOROTHEA: R O ---

PETE: R O U N D ---

DOROTHEA: S V I L L E.

PETE: V I L L. Roundsville, Willis was his name, first name.

DOROTHEA: Willis, okay.

PETE: Anyway up there, you know where the J. C. Penney's were?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: You know where Frank Dazley is up there?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: Remember that little old building that was there?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: Well anyway, they'd put a cleaning, some people set up a cleaning establishment in there. Well Willis lived around the corner about where Sprouse Reitz are, that was the Grand Hotel. And he was quite a snappy dresser; he had sport coats and pants to match it, and so forth and so on. And he had a tendency to always be looking over his shoulder like that, going along, walking. So there at Penney's they was, it was about that high, I saw this person, it was about this high off the ground, there was that much water down there. You know in those days it was just gravel along there. He was carrying about four or five of them pair of them pants over his shoulder, looked around and walked right off into

--- just soused him all over. Everybody just roared, you couldn't help it. God he got up, backed up, and he went with all these pants and ---

DOROTHEA: He just got out of the cleaners.

PETE: In mud, yeah. I'll tell you, it was --- He was such a, he was kind of a busy body, you know. Kind of walked along like an old Scotsman, just right around here.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I know who you're talking about.

PETE: He was always looking around, you know. Old Willis, he was, he was quite a character.

DOROTHEA: I remember that one guy, I think they called Swagger, was that his name?

PETE: Swagger Sutherland, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Sutherland.

PETE: He was another type too.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, he used to walk like this, you know, and swing his little black cane.

PETE: Remember he had, he had on his shoes, what did they call them?

DOROTHEA: Spats, I think.

PETE: Spats, yeah, spats, yeah. Oh yeah, he was a, and little square hat, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: Oh, he was a fancy dresser.

DOROTHEA: Quite a guy, yeah. Okay. Now the Tonawama (Corrected) Building is that T O N A W A M M A, Tonawama?

PETE: I think that's probably how it's spelled. First you could really get the right pronunciation on it up to the, I imagine to the Library.

DOROTHEA: Well I've looked a lot of these up in Pauline's books, but some of them don't have anything about them, and so I'll have to dig a little deeper probably.

PETE: In the meanwhile, I'll go through and see if I've got something with the name of that on it. I tell you, go to the Times- Herald, that would be the place to go.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Probably in the library there is some, yeah.

PETE: Uh huh. It's an Indian name. And it's too bad when they've recovered that place and looks halfway decent, they didn't call it the Tonawama Hotel.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, you know, it's too bad we don't go back to some of the old, old original names.

PETE: Names, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay, on the corner by the Arrowhead was the White Front Livery Stable.

PETE: Yeah, that was right where the Arrowhead Hotel was, is right there, was the White Front Livery Stable. And then right next to it where, you know, Sears were there in that building, well that's where the French Hotel was.

DOROTHEA: French Hotel.

PETE: Yeah, and beyond that, I think there was a grocery store. I can't remember those. And then around the corner over there where the Hines, Burns-Hines TV was the Red Front.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: And that's where the fire started that burnt that whole block. And the only reason it didn't burn the bank down was the fact they had a sod roof on the bank. The stones there, like it is today ---

DOROTHEA: Now is that where the bank is now?

PETE: Right there, Harney County, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Where it is now.

PETE: And it skipped over that because it couldn't, it was stone, and then the sod roof. And at that time it took the Elkhorn Saloon and went on down to the corner. And fortunately they got it stopped there; it didn't go on across the street. They had a fire later across the street there, but not at that time. And I've got a picture showing all around there, a bunch of men standing up there, and all these dead horses that were burnt to death, you know.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah.

PETE: And that whole thing just wiped out, you know.

SIDE D

PETE: Yes, he'd pull a lot of, like; he was like all those cattle barons.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: You got in the way and they were ruthless, you know.

DOROTHEA: Well that's what it says here, there was about fifteen of those Mexican vaqueros that would just as soon kill you as look at you. And you could see why when it came to, and the tape went blank, or that's something. And they tried the guy and they turned him loose. So ---

PETE: Yes they did, uh huh. The transcript of that trial is on record up here yet, I think, either at the courthouse or in the Burns Times-Herald.

DOROTHEA: Probably in one of the Burns Times ---

PETE: Wally read it all, and I know Bill Bradeen did too, they both told me about it. Of course I got my stuff, mostly from my grandmother. I figured she was pretty good, she was there ... all this stuff, you know.

And she was with the Smyth's when they all, she'd have got the heck out of there. See what happened, the Indians had a big pow wow up there on Steens Mountain. The Bannock, these Bannock Indians, or this type Indians, they'd set up everything and they'd let you do the fighting, they'd sit back. If you won that's fine, if you lost they were long gone. See that's the type of Indian. Well anyway the settlers had all went up to Harney, and so Mr. Smyth, and he'd buried his money in the orchard some place there. And he said, "I got to go back and get my money." They said, they was afraid the Indians would find it. And anyway, finally he and one of his sons went back. And they tried to get them not to, but they did. And so the next morning when they got up the Indians had surrounded their house. And I guess gunfire had exchanged there for a while, and then pretty soon they couldn't get out, and the Indians snuck up and they set the house on fire. And that's why they, apparently they come out there and they shot them as they come out and killed them there.

DOROTHEA: They didn't burn them up?

PETE: I couldn't tell you what condition the bodies were in. But anyway, they'd certainly, they murdered them anyway. They found them laying there anyway, apparently. That was at, that was that last Indian War.

And the next battle they had was out here, what they call the battlegrounds out here to Riley, you know, down there about, oh in there where that Shields place, you know where the, the Harney, the highway houses were there, you know.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah.

PETE: Right over, down in the willows there someplace. That was where they had the, called the battleground. It was more of a skirmish than anything else. And then they tracked the Indians all the way through to John Day over there, and finally over there at the Battle Mountain going to Pendleton, down there, you've been through there haven't you, Dorothea?

DOROTHEA: I don't know. We, usually when I go to Pendleton it's with a bunch of women, and I really don't know too much about that country.

PETE: Well when you went, you came through, Ukiah was over there, and then you got into the timber then come up, called Battle Mountain; there was a park there to stop.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: Well when you're on it a ways, went around that hill, and it was way down there. And then down in the canyon was this little house, a home there, a farmer, and that's where that battle was fought. And that's when the Indians dispersed to --- and finally they wanted, Chief Egan. And apparently, the Umatilla Indians had went in with the Bannocks, and at first they were going to be, they found out, when they found that they had lost it, they wanted the soldiers and the volunteers to forgive them about it. They said, "Well if you'll bring us Egan's dwarf hand," see one of Chief Egans had a dwarf hand. "You bring

us that hand and we'll forget it." So they brought it, give it to them.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

PETE: So they got out ---

DOROTHEA: The hand, I thought it was his head.

PETE: No, it was his arm that they wanted, the dwarf arm. It could be anybody's head see, but they knew that he had a dwarf arm see. But they could have brought any Indian head. But anyway that's when they just dispersed, and finally the Indians that they caught there, they took them up to that reservation up there to Yakima, the reservation. Then they finally just all filtered back here. They'd run off, you know, a family at a time that got back here.

DOROTHEA: Now did they take that, is that where they took it to John Day? And that was his hand?

PETE: I don't know, whether they just, no I would imagine --- Because those volunteers and stuff, all them men came from Pendleton and around. And I read quite a history of that, and it

--- then the soldiers, the Indians didn't, they didn't dislike the soldiers, they disliked the settlers and the people, the volunteers. But I think wherever they pow wowed there, or wherever the army and volunteers got together, it was there someplace where they kept all these Indians, and the Umatilla's. And they told them we'll forget what you did if you'll bring us Egan's arm, which they delivered. And then peace ensued after that, you see.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah. Well I was doing a, the Kiwanis had a radio days, and they had Marcus (Haines) do a program on the Indian War. And he said that they had taken Chief Egan's head to John Day. And I thought it was his head that he said, but maybe he said hand. So maybe I better go back and correct that.

PETE: I think I've got a book here, if I can find it, of this history that I read about the whole

thing. And I know my Grandmother McCloud, see she was a young woman, and she remembered when they were getting the men to Pendleton. They all gathered there and were all horseback, because that was the only means of transportation, fast.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, right.

PETE: And she said there were about two or three hundred men. Made a lot of the men from town come too, and they all, horseback, and away they went, up there to Cold Springs, they brought in ... And she told me the fellow that had come in and give them the word that they had the Indians surrounded, but the troops did, but they needed some help. That's when all these volunteers went up there.

DOROTHEA: It's kind of like us getting into a war with the odd countries. They don't like the United States coming in.

PETE: I'll try to find it. If I can find this book I'll let you read it, and then you can get straightened out on it. It was his arm though.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, well great. Because ---

PETE: He had a dwarf arm.

DOROTHEA: Like I say, you know, if these tapes, after they, you get them recorded and everything, when you get them back if you don't have a real good tape player sometimes it doesn't come out too clear. So we kind of have to guess.

PETE: If I can find that, I'll get the book to you Dorothea, so you can read for yourself in case anybody challenges you. But it was his arm, not his head.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: They might have got his head too, but I know they, the Umatilla Indians to get off the hook they had to bring his arm.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, okay.

PETE: Because they could have brought any Indian's head, you know.

DOROTHEA: Right, right. Of course if it didn't look like Chief Egan well it wouldn't work maybe.

PETE: Yeah. I'll try to find that, and I'll get it to you ... Well that happens on that Kiwanis Day thing.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now we're on back to this. And we're at the mortuary, and it was the Clevenger's?

PETE: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: C L E V E N G E R.

PETE: Clevenger.

DOROTHEA: I've looked a lot of these names up, but sometimes they don't have --- Okay, now we're on down to, he lived, Skiens lived down there next to the other side of Earl Browning's. And that's where Teague (corrected to Tobe) and all those boys were raised.

PETE: No, Tobey Skiens you were talking about? He lived right across from the Pine Room there, you know that lot where they've trimmed up the trees and that parking over there.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: That's where Tobey Skiens was raised there, that was the Skiens house there.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Now Tobey is the same man as ---

PETE: Flint Sprague. That was his name, you remember, when he got this, it was one of the Melvin girls. Showed a big article about he kidnapped her and took her clear into Old Mexico and back. And Tobey Skiens, but he went under the name, she wrote of his name as Flint Sprague, see. And he was working here for us at the time, riding, and he would eat his meals. And then he'd go clear up there above Bud Garlands and camp at night. And I said, "Tobe," I said, "why do you want to go up there," I said, "you have to ride so

far?" "Oh well I've got to live the character I'm supposed to be." He thought he was going to make a mint of money off of that deal. He never got nothing.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

PETE: But he was really enthused, he was a big shot, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Okay, so that would have been Tobe instead of Teague, okay.

PETE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now then Plieman Skiens.

PETE: Well that would have been a brother, that would have been; well Plieman Skiens would have been a cousin of Tobey.

DOROTHEA: Tobey, okay. And would you spell his name P L E M A N?

PETE: Poleman, P ---

DOROTHEA: Poleman, okay.

PETE: Poleman.

DOROTHEA: P O L E M A N.

PETE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: We'll guess on this. I'll have to look some of these names up even yet, I suppose. But --- Okay.

PETE: He used to live up there where Harvey Lehr lives, you know, where Mrs. Hanley bought that little house from him. He was married to Eugenia Skiens, I mean Eugenia Hibbard.

DOROTHEA: Hibbard.

PETE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay. That's how I can look that up is through some of the Hibbard disks. Because I looked in the, Pauline has a book that she got somehow or someway that has all the cemetery, dead people's names in it. And I've looked a lot of names up

through there, the older names, you know, because a lot of them are buried around here and there. So they're all on record, so I have, you know, that's how I get a lot of my names that I can spell.

PETE: I'll find that on the arm, so you'll know for sure.

DOROTHEA: Okay, because that would be, because it sounds like, it sounded like Marcus said his head. And he could have said hand.

PETE: Well when I first heard it my Grandmother McCloud told me about. She was just a young woman, you see, when this thing happened.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: And she said about the arm. And then later I read the book on the, told all about these different skirmishes and battles. And they said that's how the Umatilla's got off the hook was by bringing the arm. He had a swiveled arm, you know, dwarfed or whatever it was, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, kind of a ---

PETE: Just a peg there, you know.

DOROTHEA: Okay, on Grant Avenue I remember when Sandy Hughet got petitions to get it closed. Sandy Hughet, is that right?

PETE: That was, well, oh not George, but his brother. What the hell was his, Leonard, Leonard Hughet. Leonard Sandy Hughet.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: And Grant, what I was talking about over there, you know where the Burns City limits is going down to the fairground. Well that street, just on this side going through there, that was, that would be Grant Avenue, just like --- they're all named after presidents down through there, you know. So that's what I was ---

DOROTHEA: Okay, well I didn't know who Sandy Hughet was, so I decided I better find

out.

PETE: That was his nickname.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: Leonard was his ---

DOROTHEA: Now Lowell Reed, was that Lowell Baxter's, neighbor?

PETE: Well that was one; see her real name should have been Cawfield. What happened, Teddy and Julia went together for years. They had a big breakup, and she on the rebound, she married Red Cawfield.

DOROTHEA: Now Red was who? I know it wasn't the young Red.

PETE: He was a brother to Charlie.

DOROTHEA: Brother to Charles.

PETE: And Charlie. Anyway, right where the Texaco station is down here on the corner, across from the Shell, that's where she lives. And that's where, and I think that's where Lowell Cawfield Reed was, lived. Well now the other Lowell, Reed, was Nollie's wife, and she was a McGowan, not a McGowan but a Billy Smith. Nita McGowan was her sister, and Harry Smith who used to have the mortuary was also the brother. They lived up on the hill there, that big house there right next to where Lehrs live now, Billy Smith. And he was the man that built, oh that Odd Fellows Hall, the Brown Building, and the Masonic Building there where Nyleen's is now. And he was a builder. And actually it was his money that started the Burns Garage. Archie, at that time, he didn't have a pot or a window to throw it out of, as they would say. Because I know Harry Smith was always very bitter, young Harry. He says, "Who is Archie, that damn Archie McGowan think he is? It is my father and my mother that give him the money to build that garage."

DOROTHEA: To start it in the first place.

PETE: He said, "My mother wanted me to go in with him," but he said, "I can't stand to be

in the same room with that Scotsman." He didn't like him at all, you know. But anyway, that's how Archie got started in the Burns Garage. It was Billy Smith, see they're a different Smith from Bessie, you know, Jack ... that family, that Smith. It's a different Smith.

DOROTHEA: Oh, it's a different one than that.

PETE: Uh huh. They owned that big house down there that they moved, where Safeway's built. They moved it up there a block.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, uh huh.

PETE: I'll tell you a funny story about that. My Grandfather McCloud had had a stroke, so Mother, right there on the corner where that Bonanza is there, there was Gemberlings. John Gemberling, he lived up town. Anyway, you don't have to put this in, because it's not ---

DOROTHEA: No, but I want to know how to spell that name.

PETE: Anyway, Mrs. Smith was deaf, and Babe Smith, you remember big Clay?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: And her and Izora Gemberling would come in to Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Gemberling, or I mean Mrs. Smith would tell Babe, she'd say, "Oh you go to hell you S.B.," or something like that, you know. Anyway Izora had taken Irene out to start to school out here in Burns. She was taking care of us while Mother and Dad went over, the first when Grandpa was paralyzed, see. And so I guess Izora thought why hell if she can talk that way to her mother, I can talk that way to mine. So we just come in, and Mrs. Gemberling was a very sophisticated woman. And she said something to Izora, and Izora she said, "Go to hell you old bitch." (Laughter) She hauled off and floored her, Mrs. Gemberling floored Izora. She got up and said, "Why did you do that to me, Mrs. Smith don't do that to, what's her name, Babe." I was just a little kid, you know, at the time. And

looked, you know, and boy she lowered the boom on her, you know. She thought she, the other one was deaf see. Yeah, a few things in your life you never forget, you know, and that was one of them, yeah.

DOROTHEA: That's when you thought, boy I don't want to do that to my folks.

PETE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay, down here it says everybody had a windmill and a barn. And down there where Hotchkiss had a house, across from the Metter place.

PETE: The what?

DOROTHEA: The Metter place where Leonard's had a barn too.

PETE: Oh, up on the hill. Up there where, you know where the Leonard house is? You know where Dorey Munson used to live up there?

DOROTHEA: Okay.

PETE: Back of that, right there Hotchkiss had, not that house, they had another house there. And then they had a big barn right in, back in behind there. And then across the street there, Charlie Leonard he owned that whole block. And he had the house there, and then over on that southwest corner he had a barn, and a corral around the whole thing. And they both had, you know, milk cows and everything like that. And so one time, I didn't get in that bunch, but a bunch of them put --- Mrs. Hotchkiss had a buggy to ride down to the ranch when she wanted to. They put the buggy up on top of the barn, a bunch of fellows did. And then, ... would go around and flip over the toilets, you know. So Charlie had a real nice toilet out there that had the carvings all over it, you know. So he'd hire a couple of Indians or fellows to go up there and let it down easy. They were afraid they'd tip it over, they'd break it, see. So they ... we did too, we'd come along and put it back up. Come on boys, just leave it down.

And then St. Andrews Church is there right now, just between that and the sheriff's

office there, a fellow by the name of George Sizemore, he was the district attorney lived there. Well some of the boys used to tip his over, and he'd get in there with a black snake see. They'd be pushing, he'd come out of there in a big hurry, and he'd wrap several of the boys with that black snake. So then he took it, he had it all put around there, so he set two posts in there, and just put barbwire around there, and around there, and thought nobody would ever tip it because it was tied to that, see. Of course the boys saw that happening, so I was in on that deal, so somebody just was the lookout. So just about dusk he come out there and got in there with his bullwhip see. But in the meanwhile, he'd been in there quite awhile, we'd clipped all those wires, so they weren't holding the toilet at all. So anyway, they snuck up there and they tipped it over. So mad, he couldn't get the door, it was on the bottom.

And anyway the next day there was a bunch of us down there in the Home Drug Store, we were in high school too, see, in the Home Drug Store. And he walked by us, you know, and he said, "You S.B.'s, you." We said, "Well what's the matter?" "You boys know what in the hells the matter." (Laughter) They used to have more fun, some of those fellows, you know, like that, you know.

And then, I'll tell you ... for the other one, you know, had lots of --- There were some characters here in those days, there really was some characters here.

DOROTHEA: Well now was that the Metter place, is that what you're talking about on here? Because it says down across from Leonard's had a barn there. So was there a Metter place?

PETE: No, I was talking about the ---

DOROTHEA: Leonard I bet you ---

PETE: Leonard place, yeah, Charlie Leonard.

DOROTHEA: I bet that's what you, Leonard, yeah.

PETE: They were, Mrs. Madge, she was a sister to Julian Byrd is all. Leonard's, Leonard's.

DOROTHEA: Okay, Forrie (corrected) Reed, was he Forrest?

PETE: Yeah, Forrest, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Forrest. So I spelled his name F O R E Y, is that, or is it F O R Y ?

PETE: No, it's F O R E S T, I think it is.

DOROTHEA: Forrest, but you call him Forrie.

PETE: Forrie, his nickname, nobody ever called him Forrest, he didn't like it. Even the teachers in the class called him Forrie.

DOROTHEA: Forrie.

PETE: I think they spelled that F O R Y, or something.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think that's what somebody said that I had it spelled wrong. So --- Okay, now then we used to bring the Chautauqua in here.

PETE: Chautauqua.

DOROTHEA: And I don't know how to spell Chautauqua.

PETE: Well I can't either, but I think you might be able to go to the Burns Times-Herald, because I know they had ads. I could look it up here.

DOROTHEA: About what year was that?

PETE: Well that was in the '20's here, along in, around in the early '20's. I know they came in here, oh up until about '25 or '26. And every summer they'd come down there, and back over there by the, you know where the, oh that little house that Link Hutton built right there on the corner. It was next to that house in there where that, oh the lawyer lived, what was his name? Anyway, did you know where Bill Bradeen lived?

DOROTHEA: Approximately, down ---

PETE: Behind the First National Bank, across the street, over there, that house on the

corner.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

PETE: Well it was the old George Young house, but --- and north, just right in there. See where that building that Alpine built, and all that wasn't there. Where that house, next to it there, where at one time Arch McGowan lived, that wasn't there either. And that's where they put up their tent, and it had plays.

DOROTHEA: Oh, it was a, it wasn't a carnival type thing?

PETE: Oh no, it was a play, they were actors.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I see.

PETE: And they would have old Tom's Cabin, you know. And once in awhile women would get right there, where Uncle Tom was really being Simon Legree, you know, and they'd faint and everything else, you know. But they were here for about a week. And, oh what was her name, Hayes?

DOROTHEA: Oh, Ilda May.

PETE: Ilda May, she worked with Chautauqua for a long time, she was an agent, you know, and went ahead and got stuff then. She went, she left there and went back to, she was at the Empire State Building in a publicity, or public relations. But she worked for Chautauqua for quite awhile. Well they had some good plays, you know. And they were, they were actors, they did a pretty good job. They'd have a performance in the afternoon, and then one at night, see. And they'd be here for about a week. Oh, they went not only to Burns, they went to Pendleton, and Baker, and all your towns, small towns. And they might have went into Portland, I don't know. But they went, hit generally the small towns, you know. They'd be in Burns, then they'd go over to maybe Bend for a week, you know, and so forth and so on, you know.

DOROTHEA: Well it sounds; I'll have to look that up in the Times-Herald so I can find out.

Okay now there is another name on here. It was apparently a political person that was on the news quite a bit. And you never would forget it, you could hardly, like a brainstorm --- They showed a picture on the Kaiser.

PETE: Oh yes, it was during the war, the first world war, and at that time the theater, it was right there where the Arrowhead Hotel was, in the lobby and all that, that was the theater. Levens had built that, Hank Levens had built that, he was married to a Welcome woman. But anyway, he built that. At that time, during the First World War they had the theater there. Well like they'd put on these ... news and they'd show the Kaiser and everybody would hiss, you know, and everything else because they showed the Kaiser. Knocks these little kids down with a whip or something, it was propaganda, you know. Of course everybody hated him. What about it now?

DOROTHEA: I don't know how to spell it?

PETE: What, Kaiser?

DOROTHEA: Kaiser, yeah.

PETE: K A I S E R, Kaiser, Wilhelm.

DOROTHEA: Okay, that's what it was.

PETE: You can find that, yeah, he was the emperor of Germany at the time see.

But anyway that was the first theater. And then they moved it on over across the street, over there, well it is torn down now, it would be right next to the Brown Building. That was the Liberty Theater, and that was owned by Julian Byrd.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now here's a name I found in that cemetery book, and it's Pete K V E K S K A S.

PETE: Oh, Pete Kvekskas.

DOROTHEA: Kvekskas.

PETE: And he was a tailor. And he had a shop on that same, in that Levens Building,

down on the other side of the theater; he had a tailor shop, he and Louie Sweistris. Louie Sweistris and Pete Kvekskas. And see his daughter was married to Don Pitkins, you probably knew her, didn't you?

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah, yeah.

PETE: That was her father, she was the only child. And they had, and then right next on the other side of their tailor shop Yee Wong had a restaurant. That's where he had his first restaurant in Burns, was down there.

DOROTHEA: Yee Wong, okay.

PETE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I've got that, okay. I've got those spelled right.

Okay, that just about does it now. So ---

PETE: What was that you had about Forrie Reed there, I can't ---

DOROTHEA: Something about they were gathering milk cows, taking them out to ---

PETE: Oh, Forrie and Lee Reed, they would gather up the people's milk cows and they'd take them out, see that was open up there where Bud Garland, and they'd take them up there for pasture in the summertime. And they'd get so much, and you'd see them, here they'd come back down, they had oh 15 or 20 cows. And as they'd go by Charlie Leonard's, the old cow, they'd put her in there. And then whoever, all over town, see them going up one street, and pretty soon he'd come back down here, delivering the milk cows. Then the next morning they'd pick them up and take them up there to feed.

DOROTHEA: Just like picking kids up on a school bus, they all knew just where to get off, huh?

PETE: Yeah, yeah, uh huh. They knew where to get off. But you'd see them go, and the cows were gentle, you know, and they'd take them up there to pasture, and then bring them back down. And that give them a source of income.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you paid them to do that?

PETE: Oh yeah, they would pay them so much to take the cow and pasture, see.

DOROTHEA: Oh, oh, I see, yeah.

PETE: For people that lived in town. See there was no fences, and it didn't cost them anything for pasture, just cost them their time.

DOROTHEA: Did they ride horses to do that?

PETE: Oh yes, they had horses. They would leave them out there, and see they could water up there, or they could water up in that, at the Miller Springs, the place that I own now. They could water there, or they could water up in Swick Canyon. And they'd bring them in, it would just give the kids a source of income, see. And they did it, and then somebody else would take hold of it. In the wintertime, see, the cows would be, they'd stay at the place. I remember Peter Petersen ---

DOROTHEA: Well did they stay up there with them all day?

PETE: Oh yes, they would stay there and pasture them.

DOROTHEA: Stay there.

PETE: And they had to keep them so they wouldn't, some of them run off so they wouldn't lose them. Oh yes, they would take their lunch. And they'd be going by just about, oh 8 o'clock in the morning with his, you'd see him going by. And they'd cross right straight, and then pretty soon you'd see them coming across another street. They had to go around and pick up all these cows together, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Yeah, that kind of --- That was kind of interesting.

... (Unrelated conversation)

(END OF TAPE)

--

bl

