

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #160 - Side B

Subject: Loren Parrish

Place: Prineville, Oregon

Date: June 19, 1991

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: This is Ed Gray with Loren Parrish on 6-19-1991 in Prineville. We're talking about Loren's father Charley Parrish. Okay, when did your dad come out here, Loren?

LOREN PARRISH: He, I don't know what year it was; it was long before I was born, in the early days. He come out, old Uncle Abe Hackleman brought him out here from the Willamette Valley, Lebanon. And he worked for him for years. Then he went to, out and went to work for Bill Brown.

EDWARD: Do you know what year that was?

LOREN: No, I wouldn't know what year that was.

EDWARD: He never mentioned what year he, Charley Parrish went to work for Bill Brown?

LOREN: No, I don't know, and I wouldn't have no way of ---

WOMAN: Probably did, but you wouldn't remember.

LOREN: I wouldn't remember anyway if I heard.

EDWARD: Was it --- I was told by Fred Houston and a couple, of information that your father was the first buckaroo boss for Bill Brown. That had to be before 1894.

LOREN: Well he could have been, because I know he was there several years. Then he went up and took up that homestead on Camp Creek.

EDWARD: Your dad did?

LOREN: Yeah. And then he bought a couple other homesteads out up there. One was the old Moore place, and the other one was Ed McVey place. And he run quite a bunch of cattle up there.

EDWARD: On Camp Creek?

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: The headwaters of Camp Creek, or ---

LOREN: Well, yeah, it's over on the south side of Maury Mountains. EDWARD: Yeah, okay.

LOREN: And he had quite a cattle spread in there for --- well he, for years until he bought this place at Powell Butte and moved out there. Then he rented, oh he kept them for a while up there, and run them, and then he finally sold them to Dorothy Hackleman.

EDWARD: Now did the Hacklemans, they had a ranch downstream from G.I. Ranch. Was that the Hacklemans?

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Margaret Hackleman is still alive.

LOREN: Yeah, she lives over here by Terrebonne.

EDWARD: Right.

LOREN: Well that was Abe Hackleman's wife.

EDWARD: Oh.

LOREN: Frank Hackleman's boy.

EDWARD: I see, I see. When was your father born, Charley?

LOREN: 18 --- something.

EDWARD: Have any dates?

LOREN: Well there is one of them; I was looking for some pictures last night.

EDWARD: Did, what year did he die, Loren?

LOREN: I can't remember right now. Addie --- do you know? Now where she went, she's looking for something.

EDWARD: Okay, good, thank you. Charles Enis E N I S Parrish, born 1876, passed away 1965 in Prineville.

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Where was Charley born, in the Willamette Valley?

LOREN: Born over here on Squaw Creek.

EDWARD: Oh.

LOREN: See his father at one time, in the early day, homesteaded that Black Butte Ranch.

EDWARD: And his name was Parrish, his father's name?

LOREN: Yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: Over by Sisters?

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Huh. He lived a --- 89 years?

LOREN: Yeah, just lacked a little bit of being 90 when he died.

EDWARD: Was he a pretty hard working guy?

LOREN: Yeah, he worked hard all his life.

EDWARD: Did he, most of the time in the cattle business, or ---

LOREN: Oh yeah, and farming. Then he, of course he had cattle most of his life until he retired. But when he had that place out at Powell Butte, why he still had cattle up above there. And he'd take them up there in the summer, and bring them out here and winter them.

EDWARD: What did he, what did your father say about things you recall, Loren, about

Bill Brown? Anything that stands out?

LOREN: Oh, a lot of things that I couldn't remember, I don't suppose it amounts to anything.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, it all adds up.

LOREN: I know one time he sent, a sheep buyer come up there to the ranch and wanted to buy some mutton. And old Bill Brown was herding, had two bands put together, and he was herding them out there on the desert. And he said he went out there to find old Bill, and he said it took him a half a day to find him after he found the sheep. And old Bill, wanted to know about everything at the ranch, but he didn't want to say much about the mutton. So he asked him, what he'd tell the sheep buyer. Well he said, "Just tell them I don't want to sell them, I don't need the money."

EDWARD: Did your father ever say anything about buckarooing, chasing wild horses, rounding up wild horses?

LOREN: Oh yeah, I heard him talk a lot about running horses out there, wild horses.

EDWARD: Was that around Wagontire Mountain?

LOREN: Yeah, out in there.

EDWARD: Stauffer?

LOREN: Well I don't know about that.

EDWARD: Can you recall any of those stories he told you, Loren, about working for Bill Brown?

LOREN: Well I know one thing he said, every spring when they branded horses; they had a bunch of horses in there. Any of the men that wanted a horse, if he could ride him, he could have him. And they turned, saddled him up and turned him out of the corral with him. If he rode the horse he was his, but if he didn't it still belonged to Bill Brown.

EDWARD: Brown. With that horseshoe bar.

LOREN: Yeah, and both jaws.

EDWARD: Both jaws, yeah. How did, Charley, it says in this Central Oregon Rancher, was working for Bill Brown before 1896. And that makes, you know, that makes sense. Because Bob Baker started working as buckaroo boss in 1894.

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: So your father, Charley Parrish, must have, evidently was the buckaroo boss.

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did he ever tell you that, that he was a buckaroo boss, or a foreman?

LOREN: Oh yeah, he told me, I heard him tell me that a lot of times, heard him talk about it. Then when he quit there, he went back up and took up that homestead. In fact I think he was taking up that homestead when he worked for old Uncle Abe Hackleman.

EDWARD: So Hacklemans came up there pretty early?

LOREN: Oh yeah, yeah.

EDWARD: If it was, let's say, let's just take a wild guess, Charles was born in 1876, he would have been 14 in 1890, 16 in 1892. Did he ever mention anything as to how long he worked for Bill Brown?

LOREN: No, he never did, that I remember of, you know.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOREN: He could have said, but I don't remember.

EDWARD: Did he ever say anything to you about working with these wild horses, what it was like?

LOREN: Oh, I don't know, I suppose he did, but I don't remember, you know, just what he ---

EDWARD: Did he ever mention the Gap Ranch?

LOREN: Yes, I've heard him talk about that last one. That's where they, it was a ranch

wasn't it, where the main store was?

EDWARD: Oh that was, okay, the store was up at Buck Creek.

LOREN: Buck Creek, yeah. But I think the main ranch was at Gap Ranch.

EDWARD: Gap Ranch, yeah. Did he, did he live there, do you recall if he was there when ---

LOREN: Oh, I suppose when he worked for Bill Brown he stayed there.

EDWARD: I'm going to name some names and see if you recall any of these names, would you Loren? Charlie Couch, what did he say about Charlie Couch?

LOREN: Oh god, I don't know. I know I've heard him talk about him.

EDWARD: Ras Lewis?

LOREN: I don't remember that name.

EDWARD: Let's see, Burt Newman?

LOREN: No.

EDWARD: Johnny Mosier?

LOREN: I've heard him mention that name.

EDWARD: And then we've got all these Houston's. There is a zillion Houston's.

LOREN: Yeah, yeah, he knew them all.

EDWARD: Fred, Charlie, Sumner.

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did he ever, did your father ever write down anything, Loren, or keep a diary or anything?

LOREN: No he never did, he never wrote nothing down, or kept a diary or nothing. Oh what's his name, out here at Powell Butte, I can't think of his name now, Bill --- He said he used to go down there and talk to my dad a lot at the ranch, and he said, "By god he ought to have wrote a lot of that stuff down." He said, "Your dad was just full of history."

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOREN: But he never wrote nothing down, or said anything, you know.

EDWARD: Bill, Bill somebody, huh? Out at Powell Butte?

LOREN: Yeah, I can't think of his name now.

EDWARD: Is he still ---

WOMAN: ...

LOREN: Huh?

WOMAN: ...

LOREN: No.

EDWARD: Is he still around?

LOREN: I don't know, I think he sold out. I don't know whatever become of him.

EDWARD: Lost Creek, now this article here --- is it all right if I photocopy this and bring it right back, Loren?

LOREN: Yeah, I don't want to lose that.

EDWARD: Because it's got a running --- oh there is Lost --- yeah, it's got a running story in here. Oh lord, it goes on and on. Charley Parrish died at Parrish Lane, and Powell Butte is named for him.

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah, I'll have to copy that, and get the cover so I can order that, see where they got this picture. Have any idea where that picture came from? Or do you know who these guys are, Loren?

LOREN: No, I don't.

EDWARD: Is there anything else you can tell me, Loren, about your father?

WOMAN: Probably lots of things if you ---

LOREN: If I could think of them.

WOMAN: Just ask.

EDWARD: He wasn't asked, huh?

WOMAN: His memory is not too good anymore.

LOREN: Because I'm 81 years old, myself.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's old enough.

LOREN: I'll be 82 this fall.

EDWARD: I'm just 50. When were you born?

LOREN: 1909.

EDWARD: Here in Prineville?

LOREN: No, I was born up on Camp Creek.

EDWARD: On Camp Creek. Is there any chance, Loren, during the next few days you could, if you wanted to, to write down some things that, you know, come back to you while you're watching TV or something?

LOREN: Well, I don't know what it would be.

EDWARD: Because this will help, see I didn't know about that.

LOREN: Well there ought to be another book here with his name in it.

EDWARD: Who did Charley Parrish marry?

WOMAN: Abbey Gibson.

LOREN: Abbey Gibson.

EDWARD: What? Is that Tin Gibson's daughter?

LOREN: No, no, no.

EDWARD: No.

LOREN: No, no, no, no, no relation to Tin Gibson.

EDWARD: Just another Gibson.

LOREN: Her dad, she was raised up here on Grizzly. The old place there on that Grizzly



Road that went over the mountain.

EDWARD: Howard, probably? I haven't been up there in years.

LOREN: I don't know who owns that place now. Hiram Gibson was his name.

EDWARD: Now what was her first name, Abbey?

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Abbey, Abbey Gibson. Charley Parrish married Abbey Gibson. When did they get married, what year?

LOREN: Oh hell, I don't know. Two or three years before I was born. My brother, I had an older brother, he was a year older than I was.

EDWARD: Oh they didn't get, he, Charles didn't get married until after 1900?

LOREN: No.

EDWARD: 1909, you were born. Do you know when Charles was married Addie?

LOREN: No.

WOMAN: No.

EDWARD: Oh, I know what I'll do, I can look this up. That's what --- ...

LOREN: My mother's sister.

EDWARD: Wait a minute. Link Hutton ---

LOREN: He lived at Wagontire, he had a big ranch.

EDWARD: That's right.

LOREN: He married my mother's sister, and she died when she was young, just like my mother did. I don't know what the matter was with her, but my mother died of cancer.

EDWARD: Okay, back --- just --- ...

LOREN: Camp Creek.

EDWARD: Frank Morgan.

LOREN: Yeah, ...

WOMAN: Those guys are all dead, aren't they Dad?

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah. Let's back up here a little bit. This is pretty important, Loren. You said your --- okay, your mother was Abbey

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LOREN: Gibson.

EDWARD: Gibson. What was her sister's name?

LOREN: Molly, Molly Gibson.

EDWARD: Molly Gibson married ---

LOREN: Link Hutton.

EDWARD: Was Molly older than Abbey?

LOREN: Well I'll tell you, I don't know. I think she was younger.

EDWARD: Did you ever meet Link Hutton?

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: What kind of a guy was he?

LOREN: Well I'll tell you, I never met, I never, I seen him when I was a little kid. But to remember the man, he was a tall slender man. He come to Powell Butte there one time to see my dad. And I remember him talking to my dad there at the dinner table about --- He got, you know, he killed a guy out there?

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOREN: Link Hutton did.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LOREN: Shot him. This guy come to the ranch and was going to kill Link, told him he was. He had a gun in his hand, and Link just reached in his car and got this six-shooter and shot him.

EDWARD: Was that Bradley?

LOREN: God, I couldn't prove it by me, who it was.

EDWARD: What else did he say?

LOREN: Well I don't remember, I just remember that. I know they had a big trial out there, and he got turned loose.

EDWARD: He was a tall slender man, huh?

LOREN: Uh huh. He had a ranch at Wagontire.

EDWARD: Do you, and, but he married Molly?

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Do you know, Loren, if he was married before that to a Mary? Do you know if he was married before he ---

LOREN: He got, after she died he got married again.

EDWARD: After Molly died?

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Whatever happened to Link Hutton?

LOREN: I don't know. But he had a daughter, her name was Veva. The last I ever knew of her she was a nurse in Portland.

EDWARD: Really.

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Veva was 6 years old in 1910. Was that Molly's daughter?

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh, it was.

LOREN: Yeah. So see, she was born a year after I was.

EDWARD: About when did Molly die?

LOREN: Oh god I don't know, I couldn't tell you.

EDWARD: Was it like after he had killed this guy?

LOREN: Oh no, it was way before.

EDWARD: Way before that.

LOREN: Yeah, it was way before that.

EDWARD: Did Link Hutton marry again after Molly passed on?

LOREN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Do you know what her name was?

LOREN: No, I don't.

EDWARD: But Molly and Link had a girl, a daughter named Veva?

LOREN: Yeah. And the last I ever knew or heard of her she was in Portland, and she was a nurse.

EDWARD: Do you have any idea what her last name is?

LOREN: Not now I wouldn't.

EDWARD: Nobody knows ---

LOREN: You know a lot of these guys here I know, heard of.

EDWARD: Heard of.

LOREN: McCullough, Frank McCullough I knew him. Morgan, Les Morgan, Frank Morgan --- and I think that book, pictures on one of them was of Morgan.

EDWARD: ...

LOREN: Yeah, I think so.

EDWARD: Addie.

WOMAN: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Do you have any idea what happened to Link Hutton, where he went, where he died?

WOMAN: I never knew him.

EDWARD: Oh.

LOREN: She, no.

WOMAN: No, I never knew any of those people. I just ...

EDWARD: How did Molly end up marrying Link? Did they meet some place?

LOREN: I wouldn't know, have no idea.

EDWARD: You don't happen to have a picture of Link Hutton, do you?

LOREN: No.

EDWARD: I can't find --- In 1910, in 1900 Robert Link Hutton married a Mary. He married a Mary somebody. They had a daughter; they were still married in 1910. And there was a daughter named Veva that was six years old. So Mary must have died and Link married Molly.

LOREN: Might have, could have been now, I don't know.

EDWARD: Was Molly ever, was she alive in 1925?

LOREN: Couldn't prove it by me, I don't know. I don't even remember when she died. I suppose I was a kid then.

EDWARD: Do you know where she is buried?

LOREN: No, I don't know that even, I suppose out to, there somewhere. Out there around Wagontire.

EDWARD: Probably out in the desert out there.

(END OF TAPE)

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