

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #162 - Sides A/B

Subject: Marcus Haines

Place: Burns, Oregon

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Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

PAULINE BRAYMEN: This is Pauline Braymen; I am interviewing Marcus Haines at his home in Burns. He will be the Harney County Pioneer Association President for this June's Pioneer Day celebration. Now Marcus, what I need is for you to talk about yourself today.

MARCUS HAINES: Well I don't do that very well.

PAULINE: I know you don't. You can tell us everything there is to know about everything that's happened in Harney County for a good many years, but today we need to know about you. So what I'd like to do is start with your parents, and when they came to Harney County, why they happened to come here, and how you happened to arrive. I think you were born here --- and where, and we could start there.

MARCUS: Well my mother in came here as a 16 year old bride from Council, Idaho in 1895. And she and her husband settled over on the south side of Harney Lake, or Malheur Lake, and was involved with the problems that Pete French had with the settlers down there around Malheur Lake. As a result she hated him with a passion, of course, due to all the trouble that they had with --- not so much with Pete himself, but with his men. Pete kind of stayed in the background on most of his pranks.

My father was in the Spanish-American War; he was in the Medical Corps. And he

came to The Narrows and went to work for Charlie Haines, his brother, after he was discharged from the Army, which would have been the early part of the 1900's. I don't know the exact year.

Well my mother's husband, Warren Curtis, was shot and killed at the ranch there in March of 1903. And then my mother and my father were married sometime after; I don't know just the exact date that they were married. But I was born in Burns on the 17th of February 1907.

PAULINE: Was Warren Curtis killed as a result of these fights about the homesteading?

MARCUS: No, no it wasn't. A fellow by the name of George Miller was the fellow who shot him. A bunch of them had been to The Narrows and got tanked up a little bit, and decided on their way by they would come get a horse out of their barn there. So he heard them around midnight, or such a matter, and he went out. And George shot him down with a shotgun, killed him dead there back of the barn. And my mother was, of course, there at the house, and my half-sister who was 5 years old, and she found that he was killed. And she was afraid they would come back and kill her, and maybe burn the house and all too. And they had one horse in the barn that Warren was just starting to break, a three year old horse, just playing with him a little bit. And my mother got on him, with this 5 year old daughter, and rode about half or three quarters of a mile to the Simmons. That was their nearest neighbor there, and spent the balance of the night there with them.

Now the Simmons was Ed Oliver's wife's parent, getting back to the killing of French there, which kind of ties in. He (Ed Oliver) came down and spent Christmas Day with his wife's parents. His wife was staying with them. He had a ranch up above the Rock Ford Lane in the middle of Pete French's property, and had some cattle up there and was feeding them. And the next day, he stayed all night, and on the 26th then, that morning why he saddled his horse and started back up through the field to feed the cattle,

take care of them, when he run into Pete French. And French decided to whip him over the head with a willow stave, and Oliver shot him.

PAULINE: This was Ed Oliver?

MARCUS: It was Ed Oliver. But it is the same family that my mother went to; she was great friends with the Simmons.

PAULINE: Okay, now your uncle ran The Narrows Store for ---

MARCUS: Yes, he started the store at The Narrows in 1892, after the bridge was put in there, the winter, put in the winter of 1891 and '92, and he stated the store there. But he died in 1916; he wasn't there but about 25 years.

PAULINE: No one took the store over after he ---

MARCUS: Well yes, a fellow by the name of Joe Morris ran the store for a while. Kinda out of the N. Brown and Sons up here at Burns. And others fooled with it there some, but it was on its way out when Charlie died. Charlie caught the homesteaders here, and when he died he left an estate of \$365,000. He made there in that store in that length of time.

But the drought was starting to set in a little, and the homesteaders were beginning to wonder what it was all about, and they were soon to leave. And then of course with the advent of the automobile and the improvement of the roads, why that sounded the death ... for these little outlying towns, you know, like Voltage, and The Narrows, to name a few, and Harriman and the ones we were talking about a while ago. But Charlie died about the time that, I think he was probably about the height of the prosperity of the country at that time I would say.

PAULINE: Now you've told me this before, but I've never been quite clear as to exactly where your mother's property was. Did you grow up there?

MARCUS: Yes, I was born here on the corner where Copeland's Lumber Company is

now. Right there where that parking lot is. Mrs. Savage had a little maternity house right on the corner there, and a lot of us kids of about that vintage were born there. And then I was immediately taken home. She lived four miles east of The Narrows, near the west end of the Sod House Lane. Now when you knew the place down there, Ron Shelley lived there.

PAULINE: Okay, right over that point then?

MARCUS: Yes.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARCUS: When Shelley's left they sold the property out to Rex Taylor. Rex Taylor owns it now.

PAULINE: Did your dad continue to work for Charlie Haines, or did he start ranching then?

MARCUS: No, after they were married, or maybe before, I'm just not right clear about this, but he had a homestead up on the east end of Malheur Lake, on the south and east end of Malheur Lake. And we used to live up there some. And then my mother still had this property that she came to as a bride. And then they separated when I was about 6 years old, that would be about 1912 or '13, and my father was living up on the east end there. And there was, the Princeton store was just not too far from where he lived, and it was a building very similar to the Lawen store that we were looking at a while ago. It belonged to a fellow name of Williams. And he bought a share from him, or bought in with him some way or another. Shortly after he got in there, the store caught fire one night; they were sleeping upstairs. And they just got out. The old man Williams had a little dog, a pet dog, the dog burned. They just got out with their nightclothes on.

And the old man, he'd had enough of it so he left and my dad moved up to the Diamond Junction there. That's the road that goes to Diamond, and the one comes out to

The Narrows, and started Princeton again, in a little store. Then in 1918, he sold out and went to Middleton, Idaho and bought a store, and ran that up into the mid '20's, such a matter, and then moved to Boise where I think he had a campground. But he died in Boise in the fall of 1938.

PAULINE: Okay, what was your mother's name?

MARCUS: Myrtle Osborn, Osborn was her maiden name.

PAULINE: And your dad's name was?

MARCUS: Richard.

PAULINE: Richard.

MARCUS: Known as Dick, Dick Haines.

PAULINE: Okay. And Mildred Graves is your ---

MARCUS: She is a full sister.

PAULINE: Is a full sister.

MARCUS: Yes.

PAULINE: What about your half-sister? Is she someone that people here would know?

MARCUS: She has been gone since 1968. Her name was Dora Chapman. She was married to Charlie Chapman. Her name would have been Curtis, you see.

PAULINE: Okay, before I forget here too, you have two daughters Susan and Nancy. And I never can remember which one is married to who.

MARCUS: Nancy is a Williams, and Susan is an O'Toole.

PAULINE: Okay. I know that, but I never can ---

MARCUS: You don't know which is which, huh?

PAULINE: Which name to put to ---

MARCUS: That still doesn't help you, huh?

PAULINE: No, that helps. Okay. Edna, how did you happen to meet Edna, and when

were you ---

MARCUS: Well she came down to teach at the Sod House School in the fall of 1933, and boarded with my mother. And I was running my mother's outfit, so I ended up doing the janitor work, and started to school again and never got away.

PAULINE: Let's see, when were you married, in about 19---

MARCUS: 1934.

PAULINE: 1934. Where did Edna come from, what was her home?

MARCUS: Seattle.

PAULINE: Seattle. She was a city girl?

MARCUS: Yeah, they spent quite a little time here, and in Seattle. Her father worked in those stores, in some of the bigger stores up there, and then they would come down here.

The grandmother had a homestead out here at Riddle Mountain, and they spent a lot of time with the Bill Davies family there too. So she wasn't exactly a full-fledged city girl. She graduated from high school in Seattle, and then moved down here after she was out of high school and then she went to Monmouth two years, and that's when she started her teaching, 1931 and '32 I guess it would have been. And that was her first school there at the Sod House.

PAULINE: Where did you go to school, at Sod House School?

MARCUS: At Sod House.

PAULINE: Did you walk to school, or did you ride your horse?

MARCUS: Yes, we did both. We walked to school; we rode a horse. And in those days people used to kind of take turns at taking care of the teachers. And when they stayed with us, why I had to drive the buggy and haul the teacher to school. So we had a team and buggy and we had our old saddle horses, and we walked.

PAULINE: How far was it, about two miles?

MARCUS: Yeah, a good, yeah two miles and a half probably. Yeah, about two miles and a half from the house if we had to go around the road. When we walked and cut through, we saved a half a mile, probably, walked two miles.

PAULINE: Was the weather, this is a question I ask everyone, because we have had a change in weather patterns over the years. And the weather we've had in the last few years wasn't really too typical of what we'd had the previous maybe ten or fifteen. What was the weather like as far as, when you were going to school? Did you have to walk through snow?

MARCUS: It seemed to me like there was lots of snow. Of course I can remember quite well, maybe it happened only one year, but when I was a kid we had a four foot wire fence around the yard and it seemed like more times than not snow would drift over the fence until we wouldn't see it. We'd run over the yard fence. That was always quite a treat to jump over the yard fence and not have to go through the gate, you know. But that was due to drifting, of course.

And one year, I remember it was up in March, we used to, didn't have a car, and we'd go visiting in a bobsled, had a team with a bobsled and we'd be on snow up into March there, had been, you know. But it seemed like in those days when spring came, we kind of had spring. It seemed like it changed. Most everybody by the first of April, or the 20th of March would have these cattle turned out. But my gosh they'd starve to death if you turned them out now, you know, that early.

... (Unrelated conversation)

PAULINE: Who were your teachers?

MARCUS: Oh, we had a lot of teachers. Starting back, Jessie Bardwell Williams was my first teacher. I started to school in 1914, and she was my first teacher. And we had a Miss Dooling, and we had a Rose Henderson, we had a Mary Griffin, and we had Mrs. C.

B. McConnell, and Gertrude Hughet, and Ethel Brown, and Bill Newton in grade school. I think that was just about the size of it.

PAULINE: Did you come into Burns for high school?

MARCUS: Yes, started here in 1923. We were living out at the Weaver Springs country at the Needham place at the time, and we were in the Burns District. Had we been at home, we had moved out there that spring, and we spent the winter, and so that automatically put me in the Burns District, and so I never changed schools. I graduated here in 1927, and that was the last year of the Harney County High School. They tore it down that year and built what is the Lincoln School up here now, and came up with the Burns High School.

PAULINE: Did you take part in sports in high school? Were you on the ---

MARCUS: Yes, I did. I was on the football team, and the baseball team. I never played basketball. That was the three sports in those days.

PAULINE: Travel much out of town to play with other schools? Or was it mostly ---

MARCUS: Oh it was, yeah we went to, the longest trip I think that I made while I was in school here was on a baseball team when we went to Vale. Played in the forenoon and went over and played Nyssa in the afternoon. And we were farmed out to various houses there for the night, and then the next day we came back. They didn't put you in a hotel, they was just people --- They came over here, why you took care of the players. And you went someplace else --- But then used to play Bend football, and John Day, and Prairie City, and that was about the size of it.

PAULINE: About three games a year?

MARCUS: Yeah, there wasn't many more than that. Inter-class games, we used to play a lot of them. The rooks and the seniors played the sophomores and freshmen, or no, the other way around. The freshmen and the seniors played the juniors and sophomores,



that was it. The year I started high school here in Burns, as I recall, there were 125 kids enrolled in school.

PAULINE: If things continue the way they are, we may be back to that before we get through.

MARCUS: We had five teachers for them in those days. I think it was five, maybe five or six.

PAULINE: After you got out of high school, were you in the service? Or did you go back to ranching?

MARCUS: No, I went back to ranching. No, I was never in the service, nor did I go on any further to school, went through high school. I went back around Sod House, and worked on various ranches, and I was in partnership with my brother-in-law in the cattle business for a while in 1929, just in time to get caught in the break there. We bought cattle in 1928, and I got out in 1929. I got my saddle out here in the shed; I still got it, that's all I ended up with.

PAULINE: When did you acquire your place there next to the Refuge Headquarters?

MARCUS: I acquired that place in 1948. Now I run my mother's outfit until the spring of 1935. And I went to work for the government irrigating at the Grain Camp. That was the first year that was the property had been acquired for Wildlife Refuges, in February of 1935.

And then I worked for the Army that summer putting up CCC buildings. Then after the C's got in I went to work for them and worked until 1938, at which time I got a civil service appointment as a labor patrolman and I went to work for John Scharff, and that would be working on the Refuge. And I worked there until February 1946, and I resigned and went out on my own.

PAULINE: As a labor patrolman, what kind of things did you do?

MARCUS: Well, that was everything. I counted cattle, and measured hay, you fixed fence. It was just like what a good ranch hand would have to do, was what it amounted to. A little construction work, and just a little of everything. Did some trucking and did the farming at the Grain Camp. And as I say, it was pretty --- I finally got a promotion, I think I was Assistant Refuge Manager or something like that, when I quit in 1946. Under Refuge Manager, I think they called it, I don't remember. They had all kinds of titles, but titles didn't buy the shoes for the kids, of course. But it sounded good.

PAULINE: Yeah. You told me one time about when the ducks got botulism really bad, and the efforts that were made to save them. Can you tell about that?

MARCUS: Yes, that's true. Especially in the early 1940's had quite an outbreak of botulism, and of course, it was the late '30's. They used the CC crews to pick up the birds, mainly ducks, and they would take them in and take a little syringe and wash out their craws with fresh water. And their eyes would matter and stick together, and clean up their eyes with boric acid. And in most cases in three or four days they'd fly away. But they lost thousands of them too, that way. They lost more birds with botulism in one year than they've had around here in the last ten, I think, really. And it was kind of a strange situation there; they had all kinds of theories for botulism. It's a vegetable poisoning, you know. You get it in your canned goods and really fatal. And it seemed like, they'd pull up these bulbs and plants and stuff feeding, and then they would deteriorate or whatever happened. And then they'd eat some of them again and that was the end of them.

We used to think if the wind would blow right good and hard and kept this water moving, and stirred up and that, that it kept down the botulism. And I think maybe it did too. Of course it was generally in the middle of the summer, hot spell, and the water temperature would come up and that. But they had an outbreak of it here two or three years ago, or such a matter, and they had to send a man clear back to Washington with a

bird to find out what they had. I think while they was trying to figure out what they had, the botulism siege was all over, and the birds had all died while they were waiting to find out what they had.

John Scharff could have told them, or I could have told them, but when a new group of people comes in to run something, the ones who are here don't know very much. You have to wonder how they got along at all with the mentality that they have when you come in. But after you spend a few years here why then you begin to think well maybe these folks knew a little bit more than was allowed, you know, to begin with. We saw that so much during the CCC came in. Like down there at The Narrows, they changed that bridge, that road through there. They replaced a 300-foot bridge with a six-foot culvert. People tried to tell them, my gosh, you need a big bridge in there. When we get this high water its got to go to Harney Lake, that's the only place it can go. Oh, we'll never have that again. The lake had been dry, you know, and then in about '41, or '42 we got it, just like we're having it this year. And the state had to come down there and cut that ridge in, put that ridge in there in order to save that whole grade. It was about to wash away. But those are examples of what little, the Natives know, when the educated people come in, really.

PAULINE: This brings us to the topic of the water which --- the lake is at its highest recorded level since somewhere in the 1900's something. But we have had other high water years. Maybe it is higher this year than it's ever been, but it isn't the first year that the water has been really, really high.

MARCUS: No. They don't have any water records. They don't know what they've had here. They've all been thrown away. I was talking to Ditto here just last Saturday. I said, "My gosh Larry, that was my job, was keeping water records when I was here from '38 to '46." If they haven't been thrown out in the trash pile why they are around here

someplace.

There's a gauge right down here at what we always spoke of as the mouth of the river, where it went into the lake. We always measured it, and when there was water at The Narrows, the gauge there under that bridge, we always measured it. And there were two or three more around too, but those were two of the important ones that we measured. But there isn't a trace of the measurements anyplace. So, Joe was telling me last year, he said, "Oh this is the highest this water has ever been." And I said, "No, come on now Joe, I don't have to look at your water records. All I have to do is drive through Sunset Valley and tell you that in '52 water was higher than it was last year, and again in '58." But this year I guess maybe it is probably a little higher, but not a great deal though.

PAULINE: Well in talking with some of the other old timers say that they are seeing water where they don't recall having seen water before. My dad is one of them. And of course his experience too is more on the other side of the lake maybe, than out Sunset way. But then perhaps too, some of the changes in dikes and roads are accounting for pushing that water to areas that it has never been before.

MARCUS: I think that's true too. And then these high winds, and especially this year, if you notice the lake, those tules are gone. And like Joe told me the other day when I was visiting with him, he said, "We've got a lake instead of a marsh down there." And I guess they had quite a population of muskrats, and they cut these tules off, you know, making houses. And this high winds came here this spring, and away went the houses, muskrats and all. And there at The Narrows here, just since the first of the year or later, a couple hundred yards as far as you could see on the Malheur side of the river, you know, at the bridge there, gosh you can look back up through there for a mile, or mile and a half now right through that channel, there isn't a thing there.

PAULINE: I noticed that the other day.

MARCUS: And if you look around at the fence you can see pieces of muskrat houses hung up everywhere, you know, they've been floating, or washed out through there. Too bad.

Now in 1952, the water got over the old Burns road in three or maybe four places. And it was low to begin with, you know, it was never graded up, and there was just a ditch. And the state had to go out, just go out through the brush and make a new road is what it amounted to. Just go out to the west until they got on high ground and got around the end of the water. But last year it never got out onto that road, you see. This year it's out there now, of course.

PAULINE: Yeah, there is water out by, I was down Wednesday and there is water up. There is water in Sunset Valley where I have never seen it.

MARCUS: I'm sure that's right.

PAULINE: But now as far as McEwen's, where McEwen's have been, and Dunns are now, they have had water problems there before?

MARCUS: Well, they have certainly got them now.

PAULINE: They certainly have them now.

MARCUS: You bet. What's happening --- I was just talking to Larry (Dunn) this morning, and Mud Lake is about to fill up now. And the water is running over the natural ground, those dikes are high enough, see we've had it diked out for many years; the dikes are high enough. But the ground levels that they join up to, the water is running over them and going in. Which hasn't happened before, since this work has been done.

PAULINE: Yeah. In a way we can attribute it more to the physical things that man has done to the area, is pushing water into areas that it hasn't been before, rather than ---

MARCUS: Yeah, to an extent. I suppose, see 19---, 52 years ago this year, Malheur

Lake was for all practical purposes, was completely dry. And the survey was made there, starting in about April and finished up in September, to prepare this topography map for the lawsuit between the State and Federal Government over the ownership of Malheur Lake. And in those days you burnt the lake off every year, and then you had good clean hay, you'd get a rush of water down through there, and then it would dry and you'd cut this hay. And there was homes where people would live down in there, they wintered. Just like your folks did, your dad's folks over here on the north side. Then after the government got it, everybody was moved out and gone, you see. And these tule patches grew up over the years, and rotted down and all, and I wouldn't be surprised if there isn't a foot difference in the elevation of that lake, from, just from that very reason, you see, 52 years.

PAULINE: You were telling me about the survey for the possibility of putting a channel from the lake out through Malheur Gap that was done in 19---

MARCUS: '12.

PAULINE: 1912.

MARCUS: '13, 1913. I was telling you about it, wasn't I?

PAULINE: Yeah, you were. Would you mind telling me about it again? I'd kind of like to have that down.

MARCUS: Well, in 1913 Mott Dodge, he was, everybody knew him around here, he was water master and a surveyor.

PAULINE: Okay Monte, M O N T E ?

MARCUS: Mott, M O T T.

PAULINE: M O T T.

MARCUS: Yeah, and C. B. McConnell, the attorney, and I think there was some others too, but they were the prominent ones. They got the idea that they would drain Malheur

Lake down through Malheur Cave and farm the east end, well that whole part in there. They'd do some diking and they had that all figured out too. So they run a line of levels then to see what they had to do to take the water out, which wouldn't be very far from where the present Princeton Store is. Cut through there and take it down to Virginia Valley. And I have a record right here of it. Old Mott testified that they figured it would take a channel from 12 to 14 miles long, and from --- it would be up to 30 feet deep to get down to where they could drain this water out.

I was talking to Larry Dunn; he said there was quite an article in the paper. Maybe you read it this last week, about this very thing. I was talking to Larry Dunn and they've had these Corp of Engineers in here and they figure that they'd have to put a channel down 28 feet, so they're weren't very far off.

PAULINE: Well I heard that it would have to be about 11 miles long, so they're not very far off from that original engineering.

MARCUS: No, no they aren't, you bet. And then, where's this water going to go? It's going to go right down the south fork there, and when it does that it's going to take out that Turner, that --- well the Marvin Young Ranch and down in there, you know. They said they estimated \$500,000 to do this job, and it would cost \$500,000 to buy that ranch, so they could get that water down through there.

PAULINE: Plus it won't do this again for another 80 years.

MARCUS: No, no, that's the whole thing. And besides the Refuge won't stand hitched on it. They won't --- Larry told me that they're opposing any touching of the water, which we know that would happen.

PAULINE: In this particular instance I think it's a good thing that we have them. I really --- My personal feelings, I guess I shouldn't be interjecting this on this tape, but I do it occasionally so I'll do it now. My personal feelings are that it would not be a good idea to

do this.

MARCUS: Well, I was up here at the courthouse the other day and I heard that Wadman, and Friedrichsen, and Beal was going to drain the lake here. So I was just into the County Agent's office, when starting upstairs somebody hollered at me down there. So I went down to the SCS office down at the south end of the building and Walter McEwen and another fellow I didn't know, he seemed to think he knew me, but I didn't know him, and Wadman was there. So I told Wadman, I understand that you and Friedrichsen are going to get a scoop shovel and drain the lake down there. He kicked and squirmed around awhile there. So Walter who was --- where I got this was from Jack Peila, this water resource meeting that he'd been to. And he said, "They can't do that, can they?" And I said, "Of course they can." So that's what I told old Wadman about. Walt McEwen says, "Heee, heee, by golly before you get that done the dust is going to be blowing off Malheur Lake again, heee, heee."

PAULINE: He's right.

MARCUS: Sure he's right.

PAULINE: He's right. They needed to do it two years ago to avoid this.

MARCUS: You bet.

PAULINE: Well it's interesting how cycles repeat themselves. That's why I wanted to get this on this tape is, to point out that, you know, that history does repeat itself, cycles repeat itself, and man's reactions repeat themselves.

MARCUS: Well, you know Pauline, there's another thing too that's happening here. There isn't a whole lot of water turned out in the Blitzen Valley, you know. I was up through there last Saturday, and gosh you could turn that river in there for quite a while and fill up a lot of potholes up in there. Otherwise its been running right through to the lake, you see.



And so, Larry Dunn, I asked him if the lake was raising. No, he said, "It hasn't raised any for a while. Its been just remaining about static there." And I noticed here with Pat Culp, all his meadows are dry out here yet. A lot of this water's going into the lake could be --- you could start irrigating with it, it's going to slow that up.

PAULINE: From what I understand what's happened is that there are, well two things. Those people over here on the west side have kept the water out till they could get their meadows fixed. Somehow or other they have managed to have that privilege of being able to hold the water out, while those over on the east side, its been such a force that there was no question, it will come whether you wanted it or not.

MARCUS: Yeah, there wasn't a thing you could do about it.

PAULINE: Plus the fact that I understand there are quite a bit of trash dams in the west river that's holding that out. From talking --- from what we have talked with, from some people like down in Rye Grass Lane and out Faye Lane, out in that area, well they're really hurting. Because they've got water, and they can't get rid of it, and there's more coming in. Yet this out over here hasn't taken any of the burden. Section Five didn't get water until, well, it would be about 10 days ago, I think now, that they started taking water. Not by choice, but simply because they get their water when these other ranchers put water out, they get theirs.

MARCUS: Yeah, I'm surprised that --- Pat had --- calves down here.

PAULINE: So I think there's a move afoot probably to get the Silvies channel cleaned out.

MARCUS: Well I'm sure they're going to have to move pretty quick with it.

PAULINE: Which won't help this year, but it would help on another high water year. But on a dry year it will hurt because the water will go on through instead of hanging up, see. So I don't know, you can't win for losing.

MARCUS: I noticed there at our old place there, Red Dunbar, he doesn't have a drop of water out on the place there. And my gosh, those places should have had water on them a month ago, you know. And that's probably true of Sod House. I mean there is a lot of places besides the lake for this water to go in to, that's just been going straight through to the river.

And then if we say we've got a six-inch, even a six-inch sediment in this lake bottom to what we had here 50 years ago, well six inches of water is a lot of water in Malheur Lake.

Now Ed Koeneman told me about when he was a kid, they moved out to their place there in 1907. He said he saw it about 1912 or 1913, along in there sometime, they call it the Berry Corner, it's just south of where the road goes into Weaver Springs off of 205 down here in Sunset Valley. You know where the road goes into Weaver Springs there?

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well there was a place there, a homestead by a fellow by the name of Berry, and the road used to swing around that and then go over towards Dog Mountain, and they always used to call it Berry Corner. And he said he remembers his dad and mother going there and killing ducks for everybody back in the Weaver Springs country. And that water isn't near out there yet, you see. So, you bet, its been higher than it is now.

I've got records here that George Benson kept from 1920; I believe it was, to 1927. And in 1921 he showed an elevation of 94.8 for lake level. And Ditto told me that the Soil, or the Geological Survey came in and run some levels around, and didn't know where they got the starting point, or what they used for a starting point, but they came up with a 95+ water elevation. So that gives you a little idea of what's going on in the line of water.

But the water, Larry told me today, that the water's running under his bridge. Have you been into their place at Mud Lake? Well all this water puddles around out here in Mud Lake and around, and then hits a channel that has been washed out over the years and goes to Harney Lake. And right south of their house where they live, they had to build a bridge across this channel to get into their house. And this bridge, he told me, he had to cover it with gravel and rocks and stuff to keep it from floating away. And he said he thought that probably the water would be to the top of the deck on it if it wasn't for the gravel that's holding it down there. But he said it's just running like a millrace. He moved some cattle out across there and a couple of calves got knocked off and they drowned, both of them. He said they couldn't begin to swim in it. And that's what's carrying all this water on down, it's about oh, must be 3 miles anyway, through this channel weaving around before it's dumped into Harney Lake, you see. Harney Lake is lower by about 10 or 12 feet. It's got a pretty good fall, but then this channel just isn't handling it, that's all.

And out here at this Wildlife Festival this Steve Thompson, he's supposed to be the know-it-all down there. Oh, he says, "Harney Lake's clear full of water, clear full of water." Well where in the devil is this going with a current like that? There's no place it's going except into Harney Lake. I was talking to Donna Hurlburt the other day and she said, "Well in the morning we can see Harney Lake from home now, it's getting up like that." But she said, "There's lots of room around there yet." Yeah, they're having quite a time.

And then of course in those high water days too, they had that 300 bridge, footbridge, for that water to go through.

PAULINE: This is at The Narrows?

MARCUS: Yeah. Putting through a 70-foot bridge there now.

PAULINE: Do you remember the first car you ever rode in?

MARCUS: Yeah, uh huh.

PAULINE: Can you tell me about it?

MARCUS: Yeah, it was an old EMF. The old Chinaman says, "Every Morning Fix Them."

(Laughter) It belonged to a fellow by the name of Ed Anderson. He was a blacksmith, and he had a daughter that was about the same age as me. And I think Ed Anderson and my birthday was the same day, as I recall. He was a little older than I was, of course. But he had the old EMF, and he drove into there at the house one time. And steering wheel was over on this side of it, and Alice, we were just little kids, and she had a little stool that she sat on, a little box kind of on the floorboards, up in front there. It was a two-seated car, and he had a top on it. And I finally got to ride in that for a quarter of a mile out to the road, I think, and back.

PAULINE: How old were you?

MARCUS: Oh gee, I don't know, 7 or 8 years old, something like that, I guess. Must have been about 1912 or '13, along in there somewhere. I just can't remember the exact time.

PAULINE: Pretty exciting?

MARCUS: I can remember seeing --- it had, the flywheel was open. And I remember getting down on my hands and knees and watching that wheel turning. My eyes were about that big.

PAULINE: What was the first car you ever owned?

MARCUS: The first one I ever owned was a Model-A sports roadster. In 1930 I bought it. That was the first one I ever owned.

We kind of got side tracked here, didn't we? Is your tape still going?

PAULINE: Oh, its about to come to the end. I was going to suggest maybe we stop for this afternoon, and I'd come back another after-noon next week and ask you the questions I forgot to ask you today. MARCUS: Yeah, okay.

PAULINE: If that's agreeable with you. There is --- Yeah, it's right at the end there.

## SIDE B

PAULINE: This is Marcus Haines in his home on May 26, 1982. Well Marcus, you've been a historian and photographer of Harney County for many years now, and I was wondering how you became interested in this, and when you started putting these two talents together.

MARCUS: Well it really hasn't been many years, Pauline. I've seen people who have had to retire, and especially in the case of my mother, when they give up their ranching or whatever their activities are they are completely through, they have nothing else to fall back on. So I decided that I wanted a hobby when I left the ranch to work with. So that's what prompted me to get into photography. I got interested in the history here actually after I moved to town, the greatest extent here. But that was more of just another hobby, and they kind of work together pretty well. Photography and history of the country here, you can take pictures and get a slide show going, and you can tell history pretty well from a picture, you know. That's about it. And then another sign, of course, when you get interested in history that's a sign you're getting old too.

PAULINE: Now don't say that because I've been working at it now since I was about 18. I don't really think that's true either. You've had the opportunity to talk to a lot of people that were around in the really early days of Harney County, too. You've visited with some of the old timers as a young person.

MARCUS: Yeah, that kind of --- everything kind of went together there. I got to thinking about the Indian War, and thinking about the ages of people who remembered something about it. And I thought well maybe the time is here to do something about it. So I think I started in 1972, which would be 10 years ago, on the Indian story. And I put the story together with Myrtle Barnes, and Myrtle Smyth Barnes and the two Witzel boys, Fred and Del. They've got some years on them too, you know. But they're the only three left in the

country who actually knows anything about the Indian War. It's all hearsay with them from their parents.

Some people remember those things pretty well, and others don't, you know. I have done quite a little research on the Indian War, and I have found an account that Coon Smyth wrote about his experiences in the war. Then I have an account with --- story made with Mrs. Marion Louie and she tells her version of it too from the Indian side of it, and they're surprisingly close really. But those sources are practically gone. You see Mrs. Louie is gone, and Myrtle is gone. Of course Fred and Del are still around, but they're old up there too, you know. But the problem of it is with our early history; we didn't have a recorder. If we'd had one 30 years ago, what we could have done for our early history of the country.

PAULINE: Well this is what I found with, you know, I started interviewing people for articles for the Times-Herald in about 1957, '58, and we did the series on the 60 year settlers in the year of the Oregon Centennial, I think that was '59. None of that was done, of course, on tape. It was all just a personal interview, taking notes and writing down what happened. And it's amazing to me the --- in going back through the tapes now the number of people that have been interviewed that are now gone. So that anytime we start seems to be --- It's never too late to start. What is gone is gone, but it's amazing that you can collect as much as you can by starting from where you're at. You certainly have documented some things that would have faded into the past otherwise.

MARCUS: Well you never know when you are called upon for these things. I had a call from Marjorie Shull this morning and she has three children, and each one of them wants a tape of their father's conversations here that we made here in the past year. She was afraid they were probably destroyed, and said for them not to get their hopes up. And I said well I think probably that the tape is up in the library, but I have it on my reel-to-reel

here. I take all that stuff off and put it on that stereo tape. I can get on so much there, you know. So I have it right there. So I said, "I'll just put it back on the cassette for you." But those are the things, you know, and the same thing, and you've found it true in your photography, people come to you for pictures. I have to think about Dr. Minar here, when his father died, they had the three boys and they didn't have a picture of their father. As it turned out, we were down at the house one evening visiting. The old man was quite a rock hound and he had to show Edna all of his rocks, and he gave her some and all. And I took several pictures of him. They were just priceless to those people, because they didn't have any. It was just that simple.

Same way with Mrs. Louie here now. I have just taken three slides down here to Ruthie yesterday for people to have prints made off of. Now that's her son Floyd out here, and Joanna Skunkcap and Mary Ann Hawley, she wants some pictures too. And so I took them down there, they picked out three, and so I'm getting word to them to go in and see Ruthie and then they would be sure to get the different sizes and so many of these, and too many of that, you know.

But I had two slide shows for the Indians day before yesterday in one day. I had it at noon, and then I went back out in the evening. It's really surprising what you are called upon to dig out of your slides sometimes for people. So it's been a very interesting and rewarding hobby for me, it really has.

PAULINE: Of course now you are involved with President of the Historical Society which really again fits right in with your photography and your collection of history. And now you're working at the Museum.

MARCUS: Yes, it has all right. It's worked out real well. And we have managed to keep, I think, busier since we've been to town than we were out on the ranch, really.

PAULINE: I think that's pretty obvious.

MARCUS: Yeah, really. When you look up here at this calendar of all this stuff that's written on it you're supposed to do, and maybe you will and maybe you won't.

It seems like there's something to do most every day. I had Mrs. (Helen) Hardwick's 3rd class from Hines to show through the museum yesterday, and then give them a slide show. I had to set that up in the library because there isn't much of a place, you know, in the museum building there for a slide show. Things like that keeps you moving along.

PAULINE: Were you ever on the school board?

MARCUS: Yes, I was.

PAULINE: At Sod House?

MARCUS: I was on the school board for Sod House, I think, for about 10 years. Isn't that what you figured out, Edna? And then I was on the Crane High School Board for 7 years.

PAULINE: Let's see, there was something else that you did that I was going to ask you about, and it just flitted right out of my mind. That's funny. Let's see. Historical Society and Pioneer Presbyterian Church, and of course you've been a member of the Pioneer Association for many years. Oh, 4-H, tell us about, when did you become a 4-H leader?

MARCUS: A 4-H leader? I'm not right sure of the date. What would you say, Edna? That, when I had Harold Hill in 4-H? Gee, we were living at the Springer place. That would be back in the '40's sometime. And then I had, later I had the carpentry class, and the school kids and I used the old Springer place then to work, for them to work in. Do you remember? We worked over there in the living room.

EDNA HAINES: You had Harold when we were still living in that little homemade trailer.

MARCUS: Was it that far back?

EDNA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Well that would be back in the late '30's then. Yeah, I had students in 4-H



then. And then I think about 1972 was when I got into livestock and small engines. We had livestock and small engines there for several years, and finally we just run out of kids around there in the community, so we closed it down. So yeah, that's about the size of it.

PAULINE: You're now a member of the 4-H Leader's Association, and treasurer of that?

MARCUS: Yes, I've been on it for many years. I just don't know how long, Pauline, but it's been quite awhile.

PAULINE: Are there some other civic activities that you've been involved in? Cattlemen's Association?

MARCUS: Oh yeah, some, not much. I was on the Advisory Board of the BLM here for 9 years.

EDNA: Maybe this will help, Pauline. This is just a rough draft. He won't tell you everything probably.

PAULINE: This is what I know.

MARCUS: Well, I've got a note here that says I designed and built the schoolhouse at the Sod House in 1955.

PAULINE: Yes, tell us about that.

EDNA: There you see, you missed some of those things. This is just a rough draft, but it will give you a little leave there on some of those --- I'm doing it over, so it's hard to tell.

PAULINE: What happened to the old school? Did it just become out-dated and you tore it down, or did it burn down?

MARCUS: No, it was sold. They sold it to Ed Campbell and he moved it away. So we had to redo our schoolhouse.

EDNA: The state demanded.

MARCUS: Yeah, we had to redo our schoolhouse.

PAULINE: It wasn't up to standards?

MARCUS: No.

EDNA: The state demanded.

PAULINE: So the present, new school then that was in 1955.

MARCUS: Yes. The schoolroom and the teacherage combined.

PAULINE: Okay, and this says that in 1956 you were named Harney County Cattleman of the Year, and you've received the Harney County Grassman of the Year award.

EDNA: And he wouldn't tell you that.

PAULINE: No. You are a member of the ASCS Committee for 10 years from 1957 to '67. Okay, let's talk about Harney County Electric Co-op.

MARCUS: What about it?

PAULINE: What about it? Now I know that in 1950 there was no electricity any further than the airport. Well, maybe to the old Experiment Station. That was about as far as electricity went. If you lived down Rye Grass Lane you didn't have electricity.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Well that's true in Harney County. There was no central power, as they called it, and there was a group of us that got together in about the mid '50's and organized this Harney Electric. We finally managed to get a loan from the REA for a million, hundred ten thousand dollars to build the lines here to serve Harney County. Then we were stuck for a source of power, that was our biggest problem. We finally got a source of power from Idaho Power by paying a wheeling charge from the --- to the California-Pacific here in town which received their power up here in Virginia, up here in Silvies Valley at that substation. And we were paying nine mills, I think, to get the power down here. We paid a wheeling charge to them, plus what we had to pay Idaho Power.

So, we were pretty limited too, of course, so our next move then was to try to get Bonneville to serve the area. Well it seemed like everything that anybody wanted, both from the REA or Bonneville, we didn't have. For instance, when we got all signed up here

why we went to the REA for a feasibility study. Why we had to have a user every three-quarters of a mile. Well it turned out we had a user for every two-plus miles. And then we had to have a sign-up of fifteen hundred horsepower. And we didn't have half that much. Then going to Bonneville for power why they couldn't furnish us power if we weren't in the Columbia River Basin Drainage area. Well it turns out that the only drainage area we're in when we have it is in Harney and Malheur Lake down there. So we were stumped on that too.

So finally we went to Portland and met with Senator Morse down there, and Senator Morse proceeded to take things in hand, and it started picking up. And by going on into Nevada, which was just never once dreamed of by Bonneville, made it feasible to bring the line in here. Well it runs out now that this line that they built in here, going on into Nevada, it just can't begin to supply the demand ... So they hooked into Sierra-Nevada down at Winnemucca and they've got power coming in from both ways now to serve this area.

PAULINE: That's because of the advent of the pump irrigation?

MARCUS: Yes. Yeah, nobody dreamed, you know, we thought we had a good underground water supply all right, but nobody dreamed that we would have the go ahead on it and bring the people in here and try and explain to them that it would happen, you know, it was pretty hard. We emphasized sump pumping, and your folks, your father knew all about it, you know, and down there. They pioneered the sump pumping right down there at the Island Ranch, and other people around. And then we finally swung off onto that, and we got some pretty good sign-ups, and we got up around the 1500 horsepower demand that they ask of us. But we had quite a lot of wells signed up that people never developed. People just signed up in order to --- Hey, look at it, it's raining.

EDNA: It is?

MARCUS: Well it sure is. I thought it was my sprinkler, but it isn't.

EDNA: For pity sakes. Are you sure?

PAULINE: OH, it's just pouring.

MARCUS: I'm pretty damned sure, yeah.

PAULINE: The sun's shining, the wind is blowing, and it's raining. That's Harney County!

MARCUS: Yeah. I can generally tell when it's raining.

PAULINE: Well that was in 1957, when that first power ---

MARCUS: Yes. Yes, and see we just had the celebration down at Crane here the 15th, celebrating the 25th anniversary of bringing power to Harney County. And the first meeting was when we switched the light plant off at Crane, and turned on the power on the 23rd of March in 1957.

But I didn't know until we started this that the Lawen Store got power two days before Crane did. Dorothy Corson's light plant went out, just blew all to pieces and they went in and hooked up Dorothy, and she was number one hook-up there as a result of the old plant flying apart. And Crane High School was second.

PAULINE: Well, okay. They had a light plant at Crane then, for the school system, and so they could have ---

MARCUS: Just for the school, yes.

PAULINE: So they had probably for refrigerators for the kitchen that way, and a light system for the dormitory.

MARCUS: Uh huh, yeah. It served the whole complex there. That is, there were several teacherages there. And they were ... It was a big Caterpillar engine.

PAULINE: But you in your home at Sod House, of course, you were using kerosene lanterns or lights, or did you have a light plant?

MARCUS: No, no, we had a little light plant. Most everybody had a little light plant of some kind, you know, and sometimes they ran and sometimes they didn't. Yes, we had one, just 1500 watts. You know 1500 watts don't do much for you around the house here. You don't do any cooking, you make a little toast. And they were a quarter-horse power motor, and that's about the size of it, you know, along with your lights. And we had a little automatic Kohler that served us well, of course. But we bought it from Wayne Howes from out there at Rye Grass. And they'd taken power on down there to those folks in 1947, I believe, or '48. Overhauled it several times, but it was still running. Let's see, we sold that to some-body, and who was it? By gosh, I haven't thought of it years! It left the country here anyway, but I've forgotten who it was.

PAULINE: Then you were secretary-treasurer of the Harney Electric Co-op for 5 years, it says.

MARCUS: Yes.

PAULINE: And of course you were on the Board of Directors of County-wide TV, and that was probably a less successful struggle than the Co-op was.

MARCUS: Well you know all about that. I got you in on that, you know!

PAULINE: I think that probably the less said about Harney County Television the ---

MARCUS: What is happening, have they ever got more than the two stations?

PAULINE: No, we get Bend, and its really good reception, and we get Channel 7 out of Boise. The Channel 2 translator completely went "kaflooy" and so they took the parts from that and overhauled the Channel 7 translator and we get that really well. The Channel 2, when it burned up, they couldn't repair it, but they could use parts off of it to get the other one. And hopefully one of these days we'll have some more channels. But the reception, the quality-wise, the reception has been really good ever since the Bend people have started taking over the maintenance of it. But I stay pretty uninvolved.

MARCUS: Oh, the Bend people do the maintenance of it?

PAULINE: Yeah, I think those people from Bend come over and do--- I think Al Runnels is still helping too, but I kind of try to stay as uninvolved as possible. I saw Earl Tiller the other day and he said, "We've got to get you back on the board." And I said "Ha ha, tell me another joke."

No, when I reach a point where I'm no longer objective about it, I couldn't hold my temper with people calling. And I am really patient, but when I get mad, I get mad all over. And I, people would call right in the middle of supper, I would be burning the gravy or boiling the potatoes over, or something, and the phone would ring and it would be some little old lady wanting to know why Channel 2 was rolling, and I just ---

MARCUS: You started rolling too!

EDNA: Isn't that awful?

PAULINE: And I'd say --- They would say, "My TV just flickered and I was wondering what the problem was." And I would say, "Well I'm sure I don't know, I haven't had the TV on for 6 weeks." I did, I quite watching it there for several --- the last three or four years I was secretary-treasurer I never watched a TV program. I couldn't stand to look at it.

MARCUS: You heard enough without looking at it, huh?

PAULINE: But, you know, they --- there's a fellow that has put in an application with the FCC to put a TV station in Burns.

MARCUS: Oh, have they?

PAULINE: There is some kind of a law that they have passed that will allow some small wattage TV, and he's applied to do that. And I don't know whether it will go through or not, and with the economy the way it is, I don't know whether it will pay out to do that or not.

MARCUS: I hadn't been up on the hill here to the translator hill as they call it for 15 years,

I guess. I drove up there day before yesterday morning and I was surprised at the installation that is up there now.

PAULINE: There are so many ---

MARCUS: Have you been up there recently?

PAULINE: Not --- its been three or four years, but there's so many people up there, that's part of what the interference problems are caused, because of the amount of --- The state just kept allowing more, and more, and more people, everybody's up there.

MARCUS: By gosh there must be, there's just antennas sticking everywhere.

PAULINE: Everywhere, it's terrible.

MARCUS: And old buildings ---

PAULINE: And the cable and the TV translator were the first ones up there. There seems to be no rhyme nor reason about how they wired things up either. There's power lines draped around all over the place.

MARCUS: Yeah, there is all right.

PAULINE: And that's part of the reason ---

MARCUS: There is stuff laying on the ground and ---

PAULINE: And that's part of the reason that we get so much of that sparkly stuff in the translator TV.

MARCUS: Oh, yeah.

PAULINE: At least that's what was explained to me, and then it gets so dry.

MARCUS: Still got the big high antenna up there, but it's a different antenna on them, I mean the tower. They got the highest tower up there.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well I'm responsible for that tower. I decided if we were going to put up --- when the old tower blew down, why there was no point in putting back a little one, we put back a big one. You know, bigger is better! I don't know whether it was or not, but

---

MARCUS: Well they are sure up there anyway.

PAULINE: And then we bought the Omni directional antenna that goes all the way around from any way.

Okay, here it says something about Chamber of Commerce. You've been ---

MARCUS: Yeah, I was on the Chamber of Commerce for quite awhile different times, probably about three terms, I would guess.

PAULINE: And you were Senior Man of the Year in 1975. And in '78 you received the Oregon Historical Society Collins Award for the Preservation of Local History. Did that come as a surprise to you?

MARCUS: Uh huh. Yeah, it did. I never knew there was such a thing.

PAULINE: Of course you've been president of the Society, of the Harney County Historical Society, for the past 3 years. But the tours that the Society's has been taking have been largely a result of your efforts. What are some of the places that you've guiding the people to?

MARCUS: What are some of them?

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Oh gosh. We had a --- I was tour chairman for a while, and then I got to be president, and then I appointed a tour chairman, but he didn't do much. And so I guess I've done, oh I've picked out most all of the tours. Oh, we've gone to Catlow Valley, and we have gone to Jordan Valley twice, and Silver City, and we've gone down the river to Warm Springs Reservoir Dam there at the Reservoir. And we combined one trip with the Historical Society from Bend, and we made a tour through the Drewsey country, and the women over at Drewsey served a lunch for us over there. And we went out to Fort Rock and Christmas Lake Valley, and that country. And then we've gone to Paisley, and back



around Summer Lake and Silver Lake, and Christmas Lake, and back up and by that way. And we went over to John Day on a trip. And then we went to the P Valley, and the Round Barn and that area one time on a trip. I guess that's covered most of them.

PAULINE: Well whenever you hear about someplace you haven't been, and you want to find out more about, you're apt to get a group of people together and go. I remember our trip to Tanks as really neat, and some place I would have never ---

MARCUS: Yeah, well we ---

PAULINE: I would have never gotten there on my own.

MARCUS: Well we do that, you know, and with the Society too we took the folks, you know, and went out in the Lake County there, to Guano Lakes.

PAULINE: Right.

MARCUS: Guano Lakes and that place there. And then last summer a group of us went out through Barren Valley, and went down to Riverside, and up Granite Creek, and out on the road toward Coyote Wells, and then swung back around and came into Barren Valley and back out and hit Highway 78 there on that trip. And then we've made a trip through Clover Swales in '79. I took Blanche McWilliams out there. She went there in 1916 when she married Jack Robinson as a bride, and stayed six months and was never back until I took her back in 1979, that's June of 1979. That was another trip. There was three or four cars of us on that trip. And, well there's others too, I guess. We make so many, I can't keep track of all of them.

PAULINE: Well another, another item that you've been particularly fascinated with now is the Sand Dunes between --- in the Malheur, Harney Lake area. And you've been intrigued with the story of Mart Brenton kicking the dike there as a cut and ---

MARCUS: Well, that's one of my slide shows that I've put together on early history. I started out with Peter Skene Ogden when he was the first one to come in here and leave

the written history for us, 1826. And of course that involves the Sand Reef too. And I've studied these diaries quite a little bit and have come up with, well some answers to some questions that we've had. And I just found one of them here within the past year. We've wondered all along where the Sand Reef has been broken a time or two. Its been recorded down here, and then it closes up. And over on this side, on the north side, the water goes from Mud Lake and what we call Elliott Lake and then on west, and into Foxtail Lake, and Foxtail Lake joins right into the Sand Reef there. And there is a low place in there too, so we supposed, or we have always thought that was where the thing broke through.

Well here I have the diary of a Captain Williams who started, who set up Fort Wright down here in 1865, and in 1866 then he tells about making a trip around Malheur Lake, and he stays all night at the Sod House Spring. They've got Sod House built down there in 1862, but he didn't see it in 1866, and a little bit later than that. But then he goes on up and he crosses at the Sand --- up at the Fort --- at Rock Ford and he heads on around and is gonna cross the Sand Reef. And he finds the Sand Reef is out where Captain Currey found it out in 1864. It's still open.

Well while he is there, he looks back to the south of him, three and a half miles and he sees steam coming up. And he goes out there then and he finds a hot springs. Well the hot springs is about three and a half miles from where the present break is. So that's where, where it's broken now, is where it's always been broken, you see.

PAULINE: It's always been broken.

MARCUS: Uh huh. And they were not down where we thought it was, or --- the lowest place in the, you know, observing the thing there, and the thing that bothers you about it too is that it was out in 1866. And then when these people come in here ten years, well in '72, they find it closed again, and it didn't --- it stayed closed until it was kicked out in '81

there by old Mart Brenton. And then during my lifetime, there was, all during the late '20's and the '30's there wasn't a drop of water went through there but it never closed up, you see.

PAULINE: You would have thought the sand would have moved back in there.

MARCUS: You would think it would have closed up again, yeah. But, and then where my mother was here, after --- talking about the Sand Reef, of course in '81. She came here in '96 and this must have been prior to 1900, I wouldn't know the exact date. But she had a brother who stayed here with her, by the name of Louie, Louie Osborn. And he and Jess Marshall, he was a young fellow that belonged to the Marshall family that later had Voltage, they were down around Harney Lake there and they run a bunch of horses off into that, into that break to see how deep the water was, and so on and so forth. And the thing was full of quicksand and all, and a lot of those horses perished, they never got out.

Well these kids knew what that meant to them. Well they just went out over the hill. My mother never saw her brother after that. This Marshall boy, he showed up around here in later years, but not my mother's brother. He turned out, kind of a strange thing there. He left and nobody knew anything about him, and he showed up then in the early, oh the '20's sometime. My mother had a couple of brothers that lived in Honey Lake Valley. Now that's in Northern California, out from Susanville. Well he got in touch with them but he never got in touch with my mother.

And one of those uncles had two boys, and he took one of these boys back to Los Angeles with him. You know, he was quite a guy by then and, by golly he was a great hand to party and knew all about partying, and by gosh while he was down there with him why they found him dead. He died in his room of a heart attack or something. But I've heard my uncle tell this, he had steamer trunks, several of them, big, you know, like the trunk --- and they were full of toilet paper. And the supposition was that he was

smuggling dope from China, he'd been in China and all around. And he put it in this toilet paper, you see, and that's where he made his money.

Well he turned out he had, he was in the Philippine Islands and around, and he married a Filipino woman there. Well when World War II came along then, why this, this woman, and she had a son by, Uncle Lou was his name, they were in the death march from Bataan there, you know. So it was just about 1950, I guess, my mother brought a great, oh a fine looking young fellow over to the house one day, he was dark, and six foot or a little bit more and said, "This is Uncle Lou's son, and he's a hair dresser from Hollywood."

PAULINE: Wow!

MARCUS: And he had a handkerchief, a silk handkerchief, oh it was about this square, I guess, and my mother's picture painted on it. Where he got that, I don't know. But Mother, my Mama, Mother thought he was an imposter, and if it hadn't been for that picture I think she'd have run him off. But it turned out he had a woman with him, and a girl, and he had left her in town here and he come out to see Mama. And he was standing around running his finger through Mama's hair, you know, and Mama was about ready to give him a back-hander.

PAULINE: I imagine she wasn't really used to having her hair dressed ---

MARCUS: No. Finally he, I think he just stayed overnight with her, and that's the last we knew of him too. But that was the story of Uncle Lou. And that Sand Reef started him out on a new route in life too, you see.

PAULINE: Well one of the, there's a couple of stories you've told me, that a --- I'll tell you where you told them, we were down on the Sand Reef and I had my tape recorder and we were walking along and the sound --- is, it just didn't work. That doesn't work, riding along in a pickup, it didn't work too well.

MARCUS: No.

PAULINE: But one of those stories, you had --- and I probably am remembering this wrong, so you can correct all of my inaccuracies, but to jog your memory, you went to a dance. I think you were working, maybe at Sod House, and you went to a dance in Frenchglen, and danced all night and came home, and worked all day the next day. Do you remember that story?

MARCUS: You bet, I remember it real well. That was in 1931, when we surveyed the lake for the lawsuit between the state and federal governments over the ownerships of the --- well of both lakes. And there wasn't too much about Harney Lake, nobody bothered about Harney Lake, but anyway they were surveyed in. And we had to walk across Harney Lake, you couldn't drive, and they would dump us off on the north side and then we would walk across. And there was four of us, an instrument man, and a rodman, and a chainman, and I was the pack mule. I packed the lunches, and then I packed water, and then I packed stakes, enough to go across that lake. And the widest part is about 8 miles. And a Frank Hoopes and Johnny Quier and I, they were on the crew there. And they were staying with my mother, and we went to Frenchglen for the Fourth of July. And they had rodeos, and they had ball games, and they had dances, and it wasn't just overnight, it was for 3 or 4 days. Well we got home in time, just to go to work after being up there for 2 or 3 days. And that was the job that we had, that we walked across, or I did. They were on a different crew, but it was just as bad. And we walked across the lake there. Some of the other boys were along too, but you wouldn't know about them. And you got out on the south side there, we'd get in there 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon and then we had to wait for the truck to come and pick us up. And we'd hunt arrowheads and fiddle around. And the snakes were so damn thick around there you was afraid to lay down! But we got across there that day, we just rooted the snakes out of the way and

stuck our heads in the shade of the sagebrush and there we laid. They liked to never woke us up to get us in the old truck to get us home. Well, that's the story about that one.

PAULINE: How old were you then?

MARCUS: Well that was in '31, and I was born in 1907, be about 24, wasn't I?

PAULINE: Okay, another story you told me on this same day, and I see this as a chance to get a good story that didn't come out on that tape very well, again, I'm not remembering it very well, but you were with someone and you stayed all night in an empty house that was supposed to have been haunted. Do you remember that? I can't remember where it was you were going.

MARCUS: Well yeah, I can tell you that one. That was with Matt Davies up on Jack Creek.

PAULINE: Okay, that sounds ---

MARCUS: And we were branding calves there one spring. Spring, in about 1952, I think, and we were staying at the Dunn place, camped at the Dunn place, and, which is on up Jack Creek there from Matt's about 5 or 6 miles. And so he wanted to brand his calves, so Howard Critchlow had a truck and he loaded his boys and my horse and hauled us down and picked up Matt, and dumped us off down by Jack Butte, or Jack Mountain, on the south side there. Well we gathered all those cattle and was to take them on beyond Matt's there to a shearing corral that he had there and brand these calves. Well the day wasn't long enough was what it amounted to, so we finally had to turn these cattle loose. It was starting to get dark, and it started raining, and we trotted down to the house, and Howard was there and he picked up his boys.

And so Matt and I, we was just going out the next morning and get these cattle, so I just stayed all night with him. And so he fiddled around there and tried --- finally got us something to eat, and he talked all the time. I don't know if you knew Matt Davies or not,

but he was a Welshman from Wales. And so he was telling me about that the house was haunted there, and he said he always slept with a gun under his pillow. He said somebody would come knock on the door, and he'd go to the door but he said he never, there wouldn't be anybody in sight. And it's right down in the canyon where the place was, and out on the west side is a rim of Jack Creek, quite high. And he said, "You know, when the moon is just right, he says, you can see Indians 10 feet tall dancing up and down this rim up over here." Well I was taking that in one ear, and letting it out the other one. And he said, "Over in Wales," he said, "there are lots of those castles are haunted." He said, "People won't live in them at all." And he said, "Lots of times there would be a funeral procession go right down the street in some of those little villages there," and he said, "you never know who died, or who was buried." Said nobody would know anything about it, on and on and on.

So finally we got supper over and washed the dishes and we was ready to go to bed. Put me upstairs, and so I just, no light, you know, I just found the bed, struck a match, found the bed and pulled off my shirt, or left my shirt on I think, it was kind cold, and I pulled off my pants and my socks, and I think that was about the size of it. And I just got in bed and I just went right to sleep. And pretty soon I felt a cold draft go down my back, go Whoosh! And my hair kind of stood up like that, and I thought, now what's going on here anyway. And about that time, right down my back another blast went, and boy when that one went down there I was out of bed there, I'll tell you! I come out of there end over end. (Laughter) I fumbled around and got a match, I smoked in those days, and I had some matches in my pocket, and struck a match, and I couldn't see a thing there. The window was open, and I closed the window and crawled back in bed and wrapped up in covers. And the next thing I knew Matt hollered breakfast was ready.

PAULINE: He really put the fear in you, didn't he?

MARCUS: He sure indoctrinated me, there's no question about that. Yeah, I think that must have been the story you're talking about.

PAULINE: Yeah, I think probably it was. Well, I think we're still going, but I don't know for how much longer here. We're about to the end. Can you think of anything else that we haven't talked about that you really feel like ought to be said in a story about you?

MARCUS: No, I don't think so. I don't know what it would be, just offhand. I think you found out all about my schooling and all, what little I got, and all that sort of thing. No, I think, I think you got plenty.

PAULINE: Got you pretty well covered there? Okay. Well I sure appreciate your taking all afternoon. This has turned into quite a recording session with the gabfest that went on first.

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