

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #165 - Side A

Subject: Bill Foster - On Wagontire Mountain

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: July 2, 1991

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: This is Ed Gray with William Foster in Burns, on 7-2-91 in reference to Wagontire Mountain. You said you lived with Link?

BILL FOSTER: Well we used to go over there and stay with him once in awhile, no not lived, just stayed. He took us to the rodeo in Lakeview, and stuff like that, with the kids.

EDWARD: Well do you recall when he sold out?

BILL: Heck, they all sold out the same time, my grandmother, and him.

EDWARD: In the late '40's, or ---

BILL: Before 1945 I think they sold.

EDWARD: Do you know who to?

BILL: McCollum, a sawmill guy from Klamath Falls by the name of McCollum.

EDWARD: McCollum. And then McCollum sold to Jefferies?

BILL: Well Jeff West was in there someplace too, before Jefferies.

EDWARD: Yeah. And now Peila bought it in '59.

BILL: Yeah.

EDWARD: So it hasn't changed hands that much, really surprising.

BILL: See they homesteaded on Wagontire Mountain, the Huttons.

EDWARD: Yeah. Samuel Hutton got his patent on the house on the hill in 1890.

BILL: I know they told me all that lumber come from the mill out here at old Fort Harney.

EDWARD: They hauled it that far. I was going to ask you that.

BILL: ... That's what my grandmother told me.

EDWARD: Now your grandmother would be?

BILL: America Sutherland.

EDWARD: America Sutherland. Do you have any pictures of America?

BILL: I'm sure I do, but my wife's down at Owyhee Reservoir and she's got them somewhere in a box.

EDWARD: Okay. Would you be kind enough to send them to me so I can get them copied and send them back?

BILL: I sure will.

EDWARD: Oh, I appreciate it.

BILL: When she gets back, I'll do it, if you give me an address here.

EDWARD: Thank you.

BILL: Whatever I've got on it, because I don't really know where it all is. My mother gave it to me, and I haven't even looked at it.

EDWARD: The main --- and any pictures of, like Sam Hutton's house up there on the hill. It burnt down I guess. Do you know when that burned down?

BILL: No. I didn't realize it had burnt.

EDWARD: Yeah, it's gone.

BILL: A big white house.

EDWARD: Yeah, with the blue glass door. Austa remembers that.

BILL: Yeah.

EDWARD: And Marcus Haines. That's something, they remember just as clear as a bell. You know that Link sold out to Emery in 1926, he sold that, his dad's --- and your grandmother sold that property to Emery. Then he sold it to Dobkins in '26 too.

BILL: And then they bought it back ...

EDWARD: Yeah.

BILL: After he got shot.

EDWARD: Oh, I see, he bought it back from his family. That big white house, do you know who built that? Was it Sam Hutton and Caroline?

BILL: They had it built, but I don't know who ---

EDWARD: Oh, they had it built, okay. And Link's house, of course, is still standing.

BILL: I didn't know that, I thought it burnt too.

EDWARD: Oh, it's a beautiful old place. I'll send you a picture of it when I get my film developed. It's neat.

BILL: Yeah.

EDWARD: What kind of a man was Link? He would be your great uncle. What kind of a man was he? Was he a tough guy?

BILL: No, no, not to us he wasn't. My recollection he come over there and helped us. We hayed, branded together, buckarooed together; we hayed together, that kind of stuff. Gosh we were awful little.

EDWARD: When were you born?

BILL: '35. I was about two years old ...

EDWARD: America.

BILL: Yeah.

EDWARD: And she died in 1964.

BILL: Sounds about right.

EDWARD: Ninety years old.

BILL: Ninety-two.

EDWARD: Ninety-two. She must have been a pretty tough old character herself.

BILL: She worked right up to the time she got sick.

EDWARD: I heard that she drove a mail route from Wagontire to Burns.

BILL: She went out to Stauffer, I know that, and that way. I don't know about Burns, I don't think she come to Burns.

EDWARD: What are some of the things you heard about your great uncle, Robert Hutton, over the death of Bradley, anything?

BILL: No.

EDWARD: I talked to three sisters, three of Bradley's sisters. It's real interesting to talk to them. They got a whole different viewpoint, you know. Of course their father was killed there at Wagontire too.

BILL: Yeah.

EDWARD: Whew. Did you ever hear of a Link Woodard?

BILL: No.

EDWARD: The Emerys?

BILL: I heard their names, but I don't know ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

BILL: I don't know much about them.

EDWARD: Did Link, Bill, did he live down here in town on ---

BILL: Yeah, when they sold out they come in; they bought a house in town. Then he had one built too.

EDWARD: He did?

BILL: Tylers ended up with it. It's still here.

EDWARD: The one on the corner, by about the block off main street behind the bank in there?

BILL: That's the one he had built.

EDWARD: That's the one he had --- is that the house that he passed away in?

BILL: Uh huh.

EDWARD: What did he die from?

BILL: He died of a heart attack right in Sandy's Shoe Shop up town. Sandy Anderson had a saddle shop, shoe shop business. Link would go in there every day, and that's where he died. He had a heart attack.

EDWARD: Yeah. Is that shop still there?

BILL: It's a dress shop right now.

EDWARD: Do you know the name of it?

BILL: Micheline's.

EDWARD: What is it?

BILL: Micheline's.

EDWARD: Micheline's. It's Right On Main Street?

BILL: Right next to that Farm Store.

EDWARD: Dress shop.

BILL: Wait a minute; Sandy's was the Cowboy Connection, which is the next store down.

EDWARD: Oh, I've seen that. That's where ---

BILL: That was Sandy's Saddle Shop.

EDWARD: And that's the place that Link ---

BILL: Died at.

EDWARD: I'll take a picture of that. I'm a picture freak, as I told you.

BILL: Sandy Anderson's Saddle Shop.

EDWARD: 1950, Sandy Anderson's Saddle Shop. Did you, what kind of --- He was married to Hattie, right, at that time?

BILL: Yeah, I can't hardly remember some of that stuff. Because I was kind of thinking

her name was Mary.

EDWARD: Yeah.

BILL: Tylers could tell you more about that, and more about Link.

EDWARD: Who was Frank Foster, yeah, a brother. America, do you know when she married James Sutherland, approximately? They were married in 19 --- I know they were married in 1926; they were married at that time. I don't know when they got married. Was it right after Ike died?

BILL: I think so.

EDWARD: See Sutherland worked for Ike Foster.

BILL: He worked for Cecil's out there at Silver Creek.

EDWARD: What kind of a guy was he, James Sutherland?

BILL: He was fine; he was good to us kids. He was an old man then.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah, I forgot when he was born. Quite a long time, it was in the '80's I think.

BILL: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yes, what else, there is not much else since I got through the courthouse this morning, they explained a lot of it.

BILL: Yeah.

EDWARD: That's about all I can think of Bill. I'll run down there and get a ---

(END OF TAPE)

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