

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #192 - Side A

Subject: Ray & Grace (Bradley) Gowdy

Place: Redmond, Oregon

Date: June 18, 1991

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: This is Edward Gray with Grace Bradley Gowdy, and her son Ray Gowdy in Redmond, Oregon on June 18th, 1991. Don't be afraid of this thing Grace, it won't open up and grab you or any-thing. I just want to ask you a few questions, since now --- how many Bradley's are still alive? Lena ---

GRACE GOWDY: Three.

EDWARD: And Iris.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And yourself.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And before I forget I need to get, if it's all right, if I can get Lena's address. Anyway we already discussed the Silver Lake house, and it's no longer there. I was hoping it was. You were born in 1917, right?

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: At the Thompson's place on northeast end of Wagontire Mountain, is that right? Northeast ---

RAY GOWDY: Northeast side of Bradley Spring.

EDWARD: Of Bradley Spring. Approximately a mile northeast of Bradley Spring.

RAY: There you go.

EDWARD: The Thompson's place. Do you know what he had, Grace, acreage wise? Did he raise cattle?

GRACE: No, he was just an old man that did nothing.

EDWARD: Just sat on his ---

GRACE: Lived in the house.

EDWARD: Sat on his "buttunia".

GRACE: I don't know what he lived on.

EDWARD: Did he have any children?

GRACE: Yeah, he had a son; he lived in Paisley.

EDWARD: Warren?

GRACE: Oney.

EDWARD: Oney, Oney? Is he still alive?

GRACE: I doubt it.

EDWARD: So there was old man --- what the heck was --- Harry, Harry Thompson?

GRACE: No, no, old Harry ---

RAY: Harry Arnold.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, that was Arnold. Harvey Thompson was his name I think, wasn't it?

GRACE: The old man Thompson, I don't know. I have no idea what his name is. We just called him the old man Thompson.

EDWARD: That's probably appropriate too. Was he, like over sixty or something?

GRACE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay. Now you, one thing that confuses me a little bit, you were born, oh Lord, now I've forgot ---

GRACE: 1917.

EDWARD: '17. You were born in the Thompson house?

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Why was the Bradley family at the Thompson's house, do you know?

GRACE: My dad took up a homestead out there. He moved us out there, and that house was empty at that time.

EDWARD: Okay.

GRACE: That's where we lived.

EDWARD: The house was empty.

GRACE: At the time we moved into it.

EDWARD: That's what I couldn't figure out. So this old, was it a pretty big house? Not like this.

GRACE: I remember the old man Thompson, he came after, he came out there after, quite awhile after I was born.

EDWARD: So was that house that you were born in, Thompson wasn't living in there before that?

GRACE: I don't know.

EDWARD: Oh, you don't know, okay. How did your, when you were born you didn't have a doctor or anything, did you?

GRACE: No.

EDWARD: Old mom just ---

GRACE: Had me.

EDWARD: Had you. And in this house, we call the Thompson house, was that common in those days?

GRACE: For babies to be born out like that?

EDWARD: Yeah.

GRACE: Sure, they were miles from doctors, everybody was.

EDWARD: And did you, did the family live in that house until like 1919, or something like that, I think it was? Of course you were pretty dinky then, but ---

RAY: Yeah.

GRACE: I don't know when they moved out of it.

EDWARD: What, what did --- through your sisters and so forth, what did the kids do up there all day? Do you have any idea? What were some of the things that Lena and the rest of them did, Iris?

GRACE: I don't know, when I was growing up we rode horseback a lot. I guess they played and worked. My sisters were all very ambitious so I think they probably kept busy at something, but I don't know, I don't remember.

EDWARD: I often wondered, that's pretty desolate country.

GRACE: I was pretty small, I don't remember.

EDWARD: Yeah. Did your father; did they have cows, milk cows?

GRACE: Oh yeah, we had milk cows and us girls milked, uh huh.

EDWARD: Before I get too much further, that barn Ray, at Bradley Springs isn't there a, now I don't know if it is a barn, but a shack. Remember we talked about that?

RAY: Yeah, that old, there is an old barn there that I think was, I was told was part of the original stuff. There is some barn corrals there.

GRACE: No.

RAY: That wasn't?

GRACE: They were down the flat, weren't they?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: That's not part of it?

RAY: That's not part of it.

GRACE: That was built after we left, a long time after we left.

RAY: Oh, it was.

GRACE: We had corrals, but they were up on the hill, above the spring up high. We didn't have a barn.

RAY: Didn't have a barn. I kept thinking there was a shed, well there wasn't any ---

GRACE: I saw that when Joe and Karen took me out, I saw that barn.

RAY: That wasn't ---

GRACE: It wasn't ours.

RAY: Okay. The spring sets in quite a hollow at the mouth of the canyon, yeah, the mouth of the, or the head of the canyon.

GRACE: Yeah, head of the canyon.

RAY: And up the hill the ground is level, and that's where the barn was at up there.

GRACE: The corral.

RAY: Or the corral was up there.

GRACE: We didn't have a barn.

EDWARD: Never had a barn at Bradley Springs? Do they call that Bradley Meadow now?

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Okay.

RAY: Bradley Spring, Bradley Meadow. That's the way it is on the map I believe too.

EDWARD: I think it is.

RAY: Yeah, I know its Bradley Spring on the map, Bradley Spring, Bradley Meadow.

EDWARD: Well in terms of time, Grace, do you know when Ira first went into that country, Wagontire Country?

GRACE: Iris?

EDWARD: No, Ira.

RAY: Your dad.

EDWARD: Your dad.

GRACE: Oh, oh, gosh I don't know.

EDWARD: Harold, Harold homesteaded Bradley Meadows, right? Okay. That I'll look up, I'll send you that stuff. I wonder if he got a patent on it though. Oh boy. I don't know whether he did or not.

RAY: I don't think they ever proved up on the patent.

GRACE: I don't think so, I don't know. He may ---

EDWARD: Well I'll try to find out when I'm down at Lakeview. That's in Lake County, just right over the line.

RAY: That is just in Lake County.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: Just barely.

EDWARD: Okay. I'd like to find that out, because I'm not sure if he ever proved up on it.

GRACE: I don't know either.

EDWARD: Yeah. What, through your years of listening to family stuff, did they ever say the reason for going up into Wagontire to homestead?

GRACE: I guess they just liked the country, and took up our homestead there.

EDWARD: Because I know that Bill Brown had a lot of property around in that country. Of course he could only get so much, I mean. But he did it legally.

GRACE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Not like some of these crooks, like Peter French and those guys, it was horrible. Okay, now you were born at the Thompson house.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: What did, did the Bradley family evidently live from approximately June 1917

to May 1919 up on Wagontire? Do you have any idea, Grace, for two years in a row? Did they stay up there? You don't know, okay.

GRACE: We didn't stay there.

RAY: They only stayed there in the summertime, didn't you?

GRACE: Us kids did, yeah.

RAY: But your dad, did he stay out there?

GRACE: Oh yeah, Dad did.

RAY: He stayed there, him and Harold.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And they would stay year round, Ira and Harold?

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Okay, that is starting to make a little more sense. And the kids would go back to Silver Lake and so forth.

RAY: To go to school.

EDWARD: Right. You know that's right; they never did have a schoolhouse out there, never.

RAY: No schools. No schools around ---

EDWARD: They had post offices.

GRACE: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: Egli. I'm not sure if I'm saying that right.

RAY: Egli.

EDWARD: Egli. Stauffer, Wagontire, they had one down, I can't remember the name of it now, not too far from Stauffer.

RAY: It shows on the map.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah, there were a lot of little tiny places out in there.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Well when was the last time that the kids, see 1917, when the kids quit going up to Wagontire to stay the summers, do you have any idea? Of course as they got older they got married, but like when is the last time you were up there with your mother?

GRACE: And my dad?

EDWARD: And dad, yeah.

GRACE: I must have been about 12 or 13.

EDWARD: 1929?

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: What, where were they, where was your father staying, in the cabin at Bradley Spring?

GRACE: Well he was staying at the cabin at Bradley Springs when we all went out there. But when I went out by myself, Harold had already built the new house on that, up on the hill.

EDWARD: Do you know where that was, Ray?

RAY: He built a house up on the hill, didn't he?

GRACE: On the edge of the hill, just close to the spring.

RAY: I don't know; I'd have to look.

GRACE: Joe knows where it is, when Joe was out there, I showed him exactly where it was.

RAY: Oh, did you?

GRACE: You ask him.

RAY: Huh.

EDWARD: So Harold, when they first started going up there they stayed in tents.

GRACE: I don't know, I never heard that before.



EDWARD: Oh, okay. They said something in that compilation that they stayed in tents. Then Harold built a little cabin?

GRACE: Probably, yeah.

EDWARD: And then he built a bigger one, that's the one we were talking about, had a dirt floor.

GRACE: Uh huh. The first one had a dirt floor.

EDWARD: The first one.

GRACE: The second one didn't.

EDWARD: It didn't, oh. But there is nothing left of either one, right?

GRACE: There is nothing left of either one, not a board.

RAY: No, there is not a board there.

GRACE: Whoever tore it down hauled the lumber off of it. They undoubtedly took it for the lumber, I don't know.

EDWARD: Or could have burnt down from hunters or something too, maybe.

RAY: No, that's before they went out.

GRACE: No, uh huh ----

RAY: Yeah, that was before, yeah there wasn't any.

GRACE: No, and it was never burned.

RAY: Huh uh, it didn't burn. I know where it's at, but I could never really pin point it.

EDWARD: Oh shoot.

RAY: No, there is nothing there.

EDWARD: It's just gone.

RAY: It's gone.

GRACE: It's gone, every stick, every bit, every stick. I had a hard time showing Joe just where it was.

RAY: Yeah.

EDWARD: Now that second cabin, Grace, is that the cabin you stayed in when you were with your dad?

GRACE: Yeah.

EDWARD: That was kind of up on the hill then.

RAY: That was up above the spring, yeah.

GRACE: Kind of even with the springs. The spring set here, and the house just set right over here.

EDWARD: Oh.

RAY: But too, through the years, that country that, right in there above the spring, they've had some "hellacious" winters a time or two, and that's eroded to beat hell. It's washed quite a bit in there. Even though it is up above, but it's washed, uh huh. It's kind of a, oh a little gully coming down there. With snow, you know, god that snow gets six feet deep out there.

EDWARD: Oh, it does? Oh, I didn't think it would on Wagontire.

RAY: Yeah, it gets deep a time or two. We haven't had any for quite a few years, but see Wagontire Mountain is 6,000 feet.

GRACE: Wagontire Mountain.

EDWARD: Well what did Ira do out there during the ---

GRACE: He had cattle.

EDWARD: Oh, he run cattle.

RAY: He had cattle and horses. He ran horses.

GRACE: He run a few horses, but not very many, mostly cattle.

RAY: Mostly cows.

EDWARD: So he, well we don't know whether he had 160 acres, or 320 acres. Was it

fenced, do you know Grace, did he have his land fenced? Or did they just let them go?

GRACE: I don't know, I think, I don't know. I was pretty young; I never paid any attention to that.

EDWARD: Yeah, you were just --- no, we never, we don't pay attention a lot of times, do we.

GRACE: I never thought about the fences.

EDWARD: Yeah. Did that second house, now who built that, did Harold or Ira?

GRACE: Harold.

RAY: Harold.

EDWARD: Harold built that house, okay. The cabin was lower down in the little valley I suppose.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Okay. Was, how did you get there from Silver Lake anyway?

GRACE: Wagon and team.

EDWARD: You took a wagon, didn't have an old putt-putt Model-T or anything.

GRACE: Well Harold got a Model-T several years later. But we went out in the wagon.

EDWARD: So come about June, old Harold would come down from Wagon-tire and pick all you guys up and you'd go out there in the wagon and putt --- well if you had a car. And you'd spend the summers out there.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Clear through until ---

GRACE: School started in September.

EDWARD: Okay. I can't remember when you graduated, Grace, doggone it.

GRACE: '36.

EDWARD: '36. Do you remember old Jackson?

GRACE: Who, Jackson?

EDWARD: School superintendent?

GRACE: Yeah, old Jackson.

EDWARD: R. B. Jackson, I think his name was.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: What kind of a guy was he?

GRACE: Well you know --- did he teach in Silver Lake? Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah.

GRACE: I never went to school to him, because as I say I was a little kid, but I heard my husband say he was a mean old son-of-a-bitch.

RAY: Yeah. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Hey Grace, that's great. You let her go. I don't see too many women go, you son-of-a-bitch. (Laughter) He must have been mean then, huh?

GRACE: Well probably, although ... he was a mean old guy.

EDWARD: Well you know, R. B. Jackson ended up out there at Wagon-tire, which is kind of strange in a way, you know. He ended up on the east side.

RAY: Yeah.

GRACE: The Jackson place.

RAY: The Jackson place.

EDWARD: Yeah. And here is this guy ---

RAY: He supposedly shot himself there, is that right?

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: That's the story, I guess.

EDWARD: Do you think he shot himself, Grace?

GRACE: Well that's the story I heard, I don't know.

EDWARD: He had some guy with him at the time, I didn't know that.

GRACE: We weren't living out there at the time.

RAY: You weren't there at the time.

EDWARD: No, that was 1938.

GRACE: We'd moved in ---

RAY: Oh, is that 1938 when he shot himself?

EDWARD: Yeah, Jackson was quite a character. You know he was a Lake County School Superintendent.

RAY: Lake County?

EDWARD: Lake County.

RAY: Oh the hell he was.

EDWARD: And he did teach at Silver Lake for a time.

GRACE: Yeah, he taught my husband.

EDWARD: So Robert Sawyer did too.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Robert Sawyer ended up doing something for the Bend Bulletin.

GRACE: Robert Sawyer didn't teach ... but my older sisters went to Sawyer.

EDWARD: Yeah, interesting. He ended up being quite an Oregon writer. He was a historical ---

GRACE: I imagine he did, yeah; he was a pretty smart guy.

EDWARD: Yeah, he is real interested in Oregon history.

RAY: Huh.

EDWARD: Did you ever go to the Jackson place, Grace?

GRACE: Oh sure.

EDWARD: Was it a pretty good-sized house?

GRACE: Yeah, it was a pretty big house.

EDWARD: Like two-story?

GRACE: Yeah. That old Jackson shot himself upstairs, and rolled down the stairs, didn't he?

RAY: I swear when they, I seen the blood on the floor. I mean there is something on the floor.

GRACE: Yeah, there was blood on the stairway.

EDWARD: He supposedly used a poker from a fireplace.

RAY: That's right, that was my old story. He tied the pistol to the bedpost and used the poker to push the trigger. But I don't know, that's what the ---

EDWARD: Hopefully the house is still there.

RAY: That's what Roy Carlon told me. Oh yeah, it's still there; yeah it's still there.

EDWARD: Whew, that's one house that is still there. I love pictures. I like people to see in the books, what we're talking about.

RAY: Oh yeah, pictures.

EDWARD: We were hoping we had some pictures of the Bradley place. It doesn't look like it.

RAY: There isn't any, is there.

EDWARD: Where was Grace born? Oh, where was the Underdahl, Underdahl, yeah, Underdahl home located south of town?

GRACE: You mean in Silver Lake?

EDWARD: Silver Lake, yeah.

GRACE: Underdahl?

EDWARD: Somebody mentioned you lived there for a short period of time while you were

going to school. Of course that's your sisters, that might have been way before you were, might have been before you were born, I don't know.

GRACE: Underdahl.

RAY: Underhill, was there an Underhill?

GRACE: No. But Underdahl is not right. Who told you that?

EDWARD: Oh, that was in these papers. Underdahl, I think that's right. Well to heck with that, that's probably not there anyway. Okay, now we understood that Thompson didn't have a wife.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Just a son. We got his house, oh was his house a single story, Thompson's, the Thompson place?

GRACE: Yeah, I think so.

EDWARD: Board and bat? Was he a moonshiner?

GRACE: I don't know.

EDWARD: Most of them were.

GRACE: Yeah.

RAY: Yeah, there wasn't any other way to make a living.

EDWARD: Right.

GRACE: I don't know whether he was a moonshiner or not. My dad never talked about that stuff.

RAY: Well he didn't ---

GRACE: My dad never had a bottle, he never drank, and he just never talked about it. They was kidding about that.

EDWARD: Did, you know, a lot of these guys though, I wrote in my second book about the prohibition saved some of these families.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I mean they didn't like selling moonshine, but it saved their butt.

GRACE: Sure.

EDWARD: Because that's all they had. And that was in northern Klamath County.

RAY: I think that's what saved, didn't --- that's what Sammy Boyce supposedly?

GRACE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: That's the only way he made a living out there in that dry

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EDWARD: Oh, god, he is out there in nowhere land.

GRACE: Uh huh.

RAY: Damn right.

EDWARD: I'm going to see his place if it is still; I think it's still there.

RAY: I was there once a horseback.

GRACE: His daughter, oh no not his daughter, his friends ---

EDWARD: Hannah Myers?

RAY: He died.

GRACE: He died, yeah.

EDWARD: Not too long ago either.

GRACE: No, it hasn't been too long ago.

EDWARD: Is that the wind?

RAY: Yes.

GRACE: Yeah, that's the wind, we have it every afternoon.

RAY: God, we've had it worse than ---

EDWARD: I didn't realize it was this bad. What's it like out there at Wagontire?



RAY: Oh hell, it's calm out there, it's nice.

EDWARD: Oh, it is?

RAY: It's God's country out there.

GRACE: It's nice out there.

EDWARD: I bet you wish you still had that, don't you?

GRACE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Get out of here. Try Eugene, that'd make you sick.

GRACE: Well I probably wouldn't live there.

EDWARD: So your dad was, was, did your dad ever partake of the bottle?

GRACE: No, never had a bottle. He didn't have enough money to have a bottle.

(Laughter)

EDWARD: Was Ira a smoker?

GRACE: Yeah, he smoked a pipe.

EDWARD: Smoked a pipe. Huh, there is nothing wrong with that. Well he must have been a hard worker, huh?

GRACE: He was a hard worker. He didn't work fast, he was very, very slow, but he was a hard worker. He worked every day with the cattle. Every day he rode around the cattle.

EDWARD: And he had his own horses, right?

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Did he ever by chance that you know of work with Bill Brown?

GRACE: Not that I know of. I don't think ---

EDWARD: Never buckarooed for him, chasing wild horses?

GRACE: He chased wild horses on the desert a lot in the summer time, but it was for the Houston outfit in Prineville.

EDWARD: Yeah, good old Houston's, there is a hundred of them.

GRACE: I know it.

EDWARD: They are all over.

GRACE: And all these, that's what I say, all the Houston's that were out, the Houston's would come out from Prineville every summer and ride with us. But they're all dead now, I'm sure.

EDWARD: Fred Houston's wife is still alive, Blanche.

GRACE: Fred Houston's wife?

EDWARD: And Fred was a buckaroo boss for Bill Brown for about four years, until 1931. No, excuse me, 1932. And his father was buckaroo boss, Charlie Houston, and then his cousin Sumner Houston was a buckaroo boss for Bill Brown.

GRACE: Sumner Houston is dead.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah, he is dead, he is history. Did you ever know anything about this guy Frank Dobkins?

GRACE: I knew Frank Dobkins.

EDWARD: What kind of guy was he?

GRACE: Nice guy, real nice guy.

EDWARD: Real nice guy. And he was married, well I think his wife died, I think or something, then he remarried.

GRACE: Yeah. His first wife died and then he remarried, I didn't know her.

EDWARD: How did you get to know Frank Dobkins?

RAY: Through Dad, didn't you?

GRACE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Because I think Dobkins ---

GRACE: He lived over the mountain from us. I think he came over once in awhile, I don't know.

EDWARD: Could they ride a horse fairly simply from let's say where Dobkins lived over the mountain to the Bradley Spring?

GRACE: Oh heck yeah.

RAY: Couple hours.

GRACE: People down in that Silver Lake country, and that, would ride further, or used to, would ride farther than that just to look at their cows.

RAY: Oh yeah.

GRACE: Yeah, they had to ride. My husband rode a lot from Silver Lake to ... thirty-five miles.

EDWARD: That's pretty country.

GRACE: They have, they rode all the time.

EDWARD: Did Frank Dobkins ever run cattle down Lost Creek, through Bradley Meadows, do you recall?

GRACE: Huh uh.

EDWARD: How did they get their cattle from the south side of the mountain to the north end of the mountain?

RAY: Oh, just drove them.

GRACE: Sure, they just drove them.

RAY: They just drove them.

EDWARD: What direction, because they could go right down Lost Creek, couldn't you?

RAY: Well see this mountain is just a big old round mountain. They could drive it, around it, over it.

GRACE: Just go over the mountain.

EDWARD: Over it, around it.

RAY: Just over, around. Yeah, they didn't really go, they could just drive it. It was just a

big old bald big huge mountain.

GRACE: It's not, yeah, not that big a mountain.

RAY: But it's not rocky, and there is no, there is some rim rocks, but not much.

EDWARD: Oh there isn't. Oh, oh.

RAY: It's just a big old round mountain.

GRACE: You can ride; yeah you can ride all over that mountain a horseback.

RAY: Oh yeah, you can ride all, every inch of Wagontire Mountain.

EDWARD: See this is ---

GRACE: It's not like our mountains.

EDWARD: Yeah, see that's what I was thinking.

RAY: Once you get out there you can see it.

GRACE: Oh no, it's not like Mount Hood and those.

RAY: No, no, huh uh.

GRACE: They call it Wagontire Mountain, because it is a mountain, but it is not a big high

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RAY: Well it is, it is 6,000 foot tall, but it's not a ---

EDWARD: Okay, that explains it. I, you know, I was thinking a lot of rim rock.

GRACE: And there is springs and sagebrush, and springs all around there.

RAY: Little quaken aspen.

GRACE: No pine trees.

RAY: Oh no, just junipers. Sagebrush and junipers, bitterbrush.

EDWARD: What, oh just say it and get with it here. Why did Frank Dobkins not get along with Hutton and Sutherland, do you know?

GRACE: Well Hutton and Sutherland didn't get along with anybody. That was after I left out there, and I was the last one to leave, and after my dad was dead. No. But they

fought over water rights, Dobkins and Hutton and Sutherland.

EDWARD: Was Jackson a buddy of the Hutton's and Sutherlands?

GRACE: I don't know what Jackson lived on; he just lived in that house. I don't know what he did, what he lived on.

EDWARD: He had a 150 head of cattle when he died.

GRACE: Oh did he?

RAY: Oh he did?

EDWARD: Which isn't ---

RAY: No, but that's all that would support, that Jackson place, that's all it would support.

GRACE: Quite a little bit --- yeah.

EDWARD: Didn't Carlon come in there after Jackson?

RAY: Uh huh.

GRACE: Oh yeah, Carlon's went in there in later years.

EDWARD: Yeah, I'm going to see Austa Carlon. Who are these, what do you know about these Sutherlands? You can tell the truth Grace, if they're butt heads, they're butt heads.

GRACE: You know ---

EDWARD: Because I don't have hardly any information on this James Sutherland, and America Sutherland. They were around a long time.

GRACE: I know that they had a ranch out there and cattle. But we never went; well we never went over to the Sutherlands.

RAY: Where was it?

EDWARD: Yeah.

GRACE: It was on the other side of the mountain. There was Link Hutton and Sutherland, and Jackson; they all lived along that side of the mountain.

EDWARD: That one road.

GRACE: They were on the other side of the mountain from us, and we just never visited over there.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: They must have been along there, yeah.

EDWARD: So Link Hutton's place, the house is still standing.

GRACE: Is it?

EDWARD: So I've been told. So between Hutton and Jackson was these Sutherlands.

GRACE: I don't know whether it was between or whether it was on the other side. But all those houses were along there together.

EDWARD: I'll find out, I got a --- I don't think their house is there.

GRACE: ... if you go out there.

RAY: I think it is called the Burk place.

EDWARD: That's, it might be.

RAY: I think that was the Sutherlands.

EDWARD: I don't know if there is any of them left.

RAY: And of course on down further, that was the Egli place.

EDWARD: Egli place, there is nothing at the Egli place anymore, from what I understand.

GRACE: Well that was where Carlon's lived when they were out there, wasn't it?

RAY: No, they lived at the Jackson place.

EDWARD: No.

GRACE: Oh, did they?

EDWARD: Yeah. The Burnt house, that's right.

RAY: Burk place.

EDWARD: I bet you that was the Sutherlands.

RAY: I think that was the Sutherland place.

EDWARD: I don't know --- do you know what happened to Link Hutton? Have any --- nobody knows.

GRACE: I have no idea what happened to Link Hutton. You could probably go to ---

EDWARD: I'll be in Burns.

GRACE: Burns courthouse ---

RAY: That's in Harney County.

EDWARD: Yeah. I don't know either, nobody does. When did you, oh how do I put this. The last time the Bradley family actually used Bradley Meadows, when is really the last time they just said to hell with it, we're out of here? 1932?

GRACE: Well after my dad got killed, nobody left, it must have been, no not '32, it must have been, well must have been right around '30, '31.

EDWARD: '30, yeah your father was killed in 1930. Oh, May, I can't remember now, May something. The Bradley family, who of the three remaining daughters, who do you think killed your father, Ira?

GRACE: Who do they think killed him?

EDWARD: Uh huh.

GRACE: Well we all think the old man Thompson did, but we have no proof of that. And of course nobody that, the courts, you know, Burns was a hundred miles or more, and nobody paid any attention.

EDWARD: I understand that the sheriff's department came in there and kind of made a mess out of things.

RAY: Oh yeah.

GRACE: They didn't do anything.

EDWARD: And actually it was in Lake County. By the time Lake County got up there all the evidence, or whatever was left was kind of destroyed. Does that sound right, Grace?

GRACE: I don't know, they didn't tell me much about it because I was a little kid, and I thought a lot of my dad. And I, they just didn't tell me much about it. Only that they found big footprints going up to the window. And old Thompson, we always called him big foot because he had such big feet. So I guess that's where we got the idea that he killed him.

EDWARD: The other, I don't know, you can say anything you want to, Grace, this is hard to ask. You probably knew I was going to ask this anyway, didn't you?

GRACE: I didn't know. I didn't know what you were going to ask. If I don't want to tell you, I won't.

EDWARD: Okay, okay, that's beautiful.

GRACE: Fair enough?

EDWARD: This Link Hutton guy, from what I understand he was pretty much of a butt head.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: He seemed to be a very macho, strong, quick-tempered guy. Oh, it's out in the truck --- If I recall, he was born in about 1872. His father homesteaded there, Samuel F. Hutton, homesteaded there on Wagontire Mountain, away from Bradley Springs, the south side. That's where the white house ---

RAY: The White place. Well what they called the White House.

EDWARD: The White House, that's Sam Hutton's original homestead. There was a post office called Rest there in 1890, lasted one year. Well Samuel, and I've forgot his wife's name, it's out there in the truck, but they had three kids that I know of. One was Robert Link Hutton; the other was James Hutton, and Americas. Did you ever meet here?



GRACE: Huh uh.

EDWARD: She married Sutherland.

GRACE: Oh.

EDWARD: Well, anyway, in 1901 Link Hutton married this lady, I think her name was Mary. They had a kid, a girl. Well his first wife and a kid disappeared, or took off, or whatever.

RAY: Huh.

EDWARD: Then he remarried again to, I forgot her name. Got all that Grace, but I just can't remember it, anyway. And they moved into that house, and that's when Link Hutton shot your brother, December 27th, 1925, I think it was.

GRACE: '25, I think.

EDWARD: Yeah, '25, I think it was December 27th or 28th. Harold was running the mail route, driving the mail route. Of course I don't know what it's like during the winter over there.

RAY: It used to be pretty harsh winters; it was cold.

EDWARD: See the Wagontire Post Office, where it sits right now was opened in 1919, so he was taking; Harold Bradley was taking mail from the present Wagontire Post Office. I don't know if that's the same building or not. And then he'd stop at Hutton's, go to Stauffer and back. Now, maybe you can help me, maybe you can't, why did Hutton shoot Harold, do you know? Don't know?

GRACE: He thought Harold was the one that was sleeping with his wife.

EDWARD: Good.

GRACE: Harold, or she had been stepping out with the neighbor for quite a little while. And she was out that night with that neighbor, or he, yeah, with the neighbor man. I don't know how far he really lived.

EDWARD: She was young.

GRACE: And Link thought it was Harold, and it wasn't Harold, he was just a kid.

EDWARD: Yeah, 23 I think. Who was this neighbor, do you know?

GRACE: No, I don't.

EDWARD: Was it Dobkins?

GRACE: No, it wasn't Dobkins. I don't think Dobkins was out there at that time.

EDWARD: 1923, he may have not of been, but there was some neighbor guy. Now I can figure that stuff out. But Link Hutton

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GRACE: She'd been, she'd been stepping out with him for quite awhile. Everybody kind of knew that.

EDWARD: See Link was buddies with Jackson. Link used to go up to the Jackson house. And they'd made out a, they were going to get a divorce, Link and his wife.

GRACE: That's when, that's when old Link's wife and that man took off.

RAY: And they run off together?

GRACE: Yeah.

RAY: Oh, is that right.

EDWARD: What a zoo. This is a soap opera.

RAY: Oh, yeah.

EDWARD: Unfortunately, it was your brother. You know that nothing ever became of that, for Link Hutton?

GRACE: Oh, I know, I know.

EDWARD: Nothing. Did it have anything to do with property, do you think?

GRACE: No.

EDWARD: No. Just Link thought that Harold was ---

GRACE: The property was too far away, too far apart, you know, it was clear over the mountain. We never went over there, because it was quite a little ride, and had no reason to go over there. Didn't have anything to do with property or water. They weren't fighting over the water at that time.

EDWARD: Well what kind of guy was this Link Hutton? Did he, what do you think he was, what kind of person? Was he a hog, a ---

GRACE: He was kind of a slick, sly acting guy.

EDWARD: You've seen him before?

GRACE: Oh I had seen him, yeah we had seen him. I can't remember much about him. But yeah, we had seen him.

EDWARD: I don't know when he left that country, I have no idea.

GRACE: I don't know when he left, or where he left, or what happened to him.

EDWARD: No. I've got an idea one of his wives is buried out there in some prairie dog hole someplace. (Laughter)

GRACE: Could be.

EDWARD: I mean the law was far and few between out in that country.

GRACE: Sure.

RAY: Oh, there wasn't any law.

GRACE: There was no law.

EDWARD: Well Harold had stayed at the Hutton, the Link Hutton house for a number of times.

GRACE: Oh yeah, he'd get there every week when he took the mail through.

EDWARD: And he, didn't he, did he work for Link Hutton during the summers? Never?

GRACE: No. Stayed on his own homestead.

EDWARD: Well, I sent Ray the article on what happened to Hutton, and here's his B.S.

story. Did you know what his story was? Let's see, Link was out in the garage. Harold came out to fix his car, a flat tire.

RAY: That's what the paper said.

EDWARD: Yeah.

RAY: Yeah, that's what this newspaper told.

EDWARD: And they had a couple words. This was real early in the morning, like five o'clock in the morning.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Of course it was December ---

RAY: 27th.

EDWARD: --- 27th, 28th, and knowing this Hutton --- of course, oh well, that's for me to determine I guess. I think he was a butt head, but anyway --- I'm not afraid to say it. Anyway, they had some words, so Link picked up his gun, which they probably got rifles stored all over the place back in those days, and Harold supposedly, this is probably all B.S., had a hammer, right, and Link shot him in the garage, twice. And his defense was Harold came after him with a hammer.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Well, nobody was there.

GRACE: No.

RAY: No, there wasn't any witnesses.

EDWARD: Huh uh. Hutton went to Jackson's place, and from there to Burns and informed the authorities. And somehow they got word, or something. I can't remember how it worked.

GRACE: Harold was a very mild, even-tempered guy. Never did see him lose his temper. He took care of us kids mostly. He just took the lead and took care of us kids.

He never got mad at us.

EDWARD: How big a man was he near his time of death, like when he was 21, 22? Was he a tall man? I'm six foot two. Ray ---

RAY: I'm only five, ten.

EDWARD: Was he taller than Ray?

GRACE: I don't know whether he was or not.

EDWARD: Did he have red hair?

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Oh, he did? My granddaughter has got red hair, and don't ask me where it came from.

GRACE: Yeah, he had red hair, but he wasn't, he wasn't very big. He was probably about like Ray, right in there, maybe a little bit bigger.

EDWARD: He was the, he seemed to be, liked children.

GRACE: To do what?

EDWARD: He seemed to like children.

GRACE: Oh yeah, he was crazy about his family.

EDWARD: All right. Did he have a girlfriend?

GRACE: No.

EDWARD: Where would you find a girlfriend out there?

RAY: I'll be damned if I know.

EDWARD: Well maybe it was goat or a sheep or something.

GRACE: He drove out there, but the Bradley girls were his sisters. No, he didn't ---

EDWARD: What stood out in your mind, from what you heard and what you've seen of Harold? What did he do for, that stands out in your mind, Grace, for you?

GRACE: What did he do for?

EDWARD: Anybody, for the family, for you?

GRACE: Well he did everything for the family.

EDWARD: Uh huh. He took care of you kids when you were over there at Bradley Meadows?

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I wonder sometimes why you kids went up there. That was the only place to go?

RAY: Well that's where their dad and brother was at.

GRACE: That's where our ranch was.

EDWARD: And that's --- you just did it?

GRACE: Yeah. The only chance we had of seeing our dad was to go out there and live with him for the summer.

EDWARD: And he did live there year around, right?

EDWARD: It was a nice place to go, it was a pretty place.

RAY: A beautiful place.

GRACE: And we had our horse, we rode all the time. We all had horses.

EDWARD: For these modern day folk to see that, you know, I can't get a ---

GRACE: You can't get a picture of it. We had a good time.

EDWARD: Oh I can, I can get a picture exactly what happened.

GRACE: We played a lot, we laughed a lot, we were a happy family.

EDWARD: These city folks, they go, I take some lady up from Eugene to my ranch, to the ranch, and they want out of there in two days, they're ready to leave, and there is electricity, you know. I mean come on. They've had it.

RAY: But Wagontire, out there at Bradley Meadows is a beautiful spot, it's pretty.

GRACE: Yeah, it's a nice ... We had water, a nice spring, and the meadow.

RAY: Oh yeah, the grass grew an inch in a week.

EDWARD: I'll be there in about two weeks; I'll get a better idea.

RAY: Well that will be what it's ---

EDWARD: Because I've been up in the Ochocos and Warner Valley, and there are some areas up there ---

RAY: Pretty.

EDWARD: Oh boy. Okay, anything else you want to say Grace?

GRACE: I can't think of anything. Like I say, there is just so many things that I don't remember.

EDWARD: What, oh no, you were gone. Harry Arnold, when did he come in there, do you know?

GRACE: I don't know when he came in there.

EDWARD: It must have been in the '30's, I think. He had a girl friend too.

GRACE: Yeah, ...

EDWARD: Six, Two-Gun, or yeah.

RAY: Tebo and Two-Gun.

GRACE: Two-Gun Sue.

RAY: Two-Gun Sue.

EDWARD: Why do all these, I would say weird people, except for the Bradley's, end up the Hutton's and the Two-Gun Sue, and what, T-Bone.

RAY: Tebo.

EDWARD: Tebo.

RAY: I don't know where he got the name.

EDWARD: Arnold, who seemed to be in trouble too. And the Sutherlands weren't angels. And Jackson I guess blew his brains out.

GRACE: It was probably a good place to hide, you know. They'd get away from the public eye, and the law and everything. I always figured old Tebo's girlfriend was probably wanted for something. She carried those guns all the time.

EDWARD: I can't believe it. Well it was on the Arnold Ranch that old Dobkins was blown off a saddle.

GRACE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: Just at the, to the gate into his house. Now the Arnold house, now I'm getting confused again. Who owned the Arnold house later, Carlon's?

RAY: Jack West.

EDWARD: Jack West.

GRACE: Same guy that owned Wagontire Mountain, or had belonged to Bradley.

RAY: Yes.

EDWARD: I'm going to try to find this Jack West. He might have some pictures and so forth and so on. Jack West ended up with Bradley Meadows?

RAY: Yes. He owned it.

EDWARD: How, unless somebody ---

RAY: Hell, I don't know. I don't know how he got it.

EDWARD: Well I'm going to find out if Harold and Ira got a patent on that place.

GRACE: Yeah, it seemed ---

EDWARD: Somebody did if West got it. Somebody did.

RAY: Somebody did.

EDWARD: It's not government land; it's too late to buy it.

RAY: Oh no, that's right.

EDWARD: Somebody got a patent somewhere, the deed of some kind.

RAY: Yeah, because Jackson ---



(END OF TAPE)

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