

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #198 - Sides A/B

Subject: Historical Society Tour

Place: Riley, Oregon

Date: October 9, 1976

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

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WALLY WELCOME: All right Jessie, you just start in and tell them all you know about this Oakerman place here.

JESSIE WILLIAMS: Well all I know is they had it when I came out here in 19 and 16, '14. And there was a store, a store stood over here in the Oakerman place here. But before I came out here, one time a whole bunch of us got together and I think there was six couples of us. At Christmas time we hired a four-horse team and a bobsled and come out to a dance here at this ---

DON HOTCHKISS: Jim Sheppard drove the team.

JESSIE: Yeah, Jim Sheppard drove the team, you remember Don? You're right. (Laughter) And we all went into the Oakerman place and kind of straightened up --- we rode on a big ...

WALLY: Were you with them Don?

DON: Yeah, we was going to high school there.

JESSIE: You bet we was going to high school, having a good time too, wasn't it?

PATTI ENGSTROM: Where was the dance hall?

JESSIE: Well it was over the store, it was quite a good-sized hall too, wasn't it Don?

DON: Yeah.

PATTI: Well they must have tore that out, then they put another store in, huh? Or was it just a little dance hall?

JESSIE: No, no it was quite a good-sized building.

PATTI: Oh.

JESSIE: He had a store about like Charlie Haines did at The Narrows. I don't know ---

PATTI: Well the house before they tore it down here just a couple of years ago ---

JESSIE: Oh well that house didn't have any ---

PATTI: That was something else --- but they tore it down and took that little ---

JESSIE: Yeah. That's where they lived. Uh huh.

DON: The Embree house ---

PATTI: That was where the original, everything was?

JESSIE: The Embree house stood right here. It was a square house.

DON: That went with the store. It set right there, and they just got it tore down about two weeks ago.

PATTI: Yeah, I know.

DON: Or ten days.

PATTI: I was out here when it was up.

JESSIE: I haven't been down by here for so long.

MAN 1: Who owns it now, Don? Does Hegwald, or does ---

JESSIE: Was that his name?

MAN 1: Green Valley did.

DON: Well I, I saw it in the paper the other day after they had that fire out here that burned up the bunkhouse and it said

H E G W A L D.

JESSIE: Was it the bunkhouse that burned up here?

DON: That's what the paper --- it was in the paper.

JESSIE: I don't read my paper.

DON: They was investigating the cause of the fire there.

WOMAN: Jessie, you started to say you straightened up the place or something, or what did you start to say when you came out to the dance?

JESSIE: Oh, I said we went over to Oakermans to the --- what was supposed to be a hotel then, and she had rooms for us to go in and clean up in. And then we stayed till morning, then we drove back to Burns in the bobsled. What time did we get back to Burns Don?

DON: Well I don't remember, but we stayed until the dance was out. It took about, took about four hours I believe, with the team.

JESSIE: Well I think it did too.

DON: To come over.

JESSIE: Anyway that much.

DON: We aimed to get here.

PATTI: Come over where, Silver Creek?

JESSIE: From Burns.

PATTI: Burns.

JESSIE: From Burns.

PATTI: Oh, wasn't Silver Creek established before Burns?

JESSIE: Oh, about the same time.

PATTI: Oh.

JESSIE: The post office I think was --- the name was established in 1885.

PATTI: Yeah.

JESSIE: The name of the post office.

PATTI: Yeah, I thought that's what was, there was people in Silver Creek. Actually ranchers in before ---

JESSIE: Oh yes, Cecil's were.

DON: They came in, in the '70's.

PATTI: Yeah, right.

JESSIE: Cecil might --- in '71, that's where they got their brand. That's where Cecil's got their brand. They came in 1971, and they've always branded '71.

PAULINE BRAYMEN: 1871.

PATTI: I'll be darned.

JESSIE: I thought maybe Zola would be here. Then Doc Embree left the country, why this post office, Riley Post Office, was given up. Then when Virgil Shields started his little store down at the end of the --- just where we turned off down there it set across the road there.

PATTI: Right up to the hill? Like you go up the hill there was one there?

JESSIE: No, where we turned off of the highway.

DON: Just as we turned up the road this way there, just to the right.

PATTI: I was thinking right up the hill there was a store or something ---

JESSIE: Oh, this was Riley.

DON: Yeah.

PATTI: The original Riley Store was --- like the hill you come off, and then you level off, there was one sitting there at one time?

WALLY: Suntex was up that way; we'll go by that.

PATTI: Well no, I thought this was way back.

DON: That was later, that was later.

PATTI: No.

JESSIE: Right where you turn off of the highway was where ---

PATTI: The Porters was back up there. Yeah, that's right up that hill, that's what I was thinking.

WALLY: Virgil ---

DON: Virgil Shield's Store ---

JESSIE: Do you know what year?

DON: --- after they got the highway, yeah, they changed the highway.

JESSIE: Do you remember what year?

DON: I think it was '34.

WALLY: Yeah, that's what I thought.

JESSIE: Well then he got the post office.

MAN: Yeah, it was in the '30's.

WALLY: So they changed the highway, this used to be a --- this used to be a stage stop.

PATTI: Uh huh.

DON: Well this was a --- originally this was a ---

JESSIE: The old road to Bend.

WALLY: The old road, you see, the old stage road, and they came right on up over Buck Mountain and that way. Well then when they changed this Central Oregon Highway and put it through ---

PATTI: Uh huh.

WALLY: --- and it took them over 17 years to get it done. But when they did finish it, why --- I think it was 1935, about.

PATTI: Uh huh.

WALLY: Well then Shields went up on the highway then, you know what I mean?

PATTI: Right. Yeah, that's what I was thinking.

JESSIE: He got the, he got the Riley Post Office back when he built that place down there.

WALLY: Yeah, they went back, instead of it being Suntex ---

DON: But '34 was an awful dry year in this country. We never cut a pound of hay over home there in '34. '24 and '34 were both dry years. But I never did know anything about it myself. But they, when they was building this highway down here, about '34, they was, they had a little well here, shallow well. There wasn't any deep wells in. They hauled water from here, this Embree well, down there for the horses they said, when they was working on that highway. This well was a little better than the two wells we had over here.

The wells are only --- oh maybe 14 feet deep, not over that. But there's a well over there by the house, and it wasn't quite as good as this one, but we tried to clean this one out several times and keep water there. And then I finally had to go drill it out there.

JESSIE: Well I thought this was, wasn't this a deeper well over here?

DON: A little bit deeper.

JESSIE: Uh huh, that's what I thought it was.

DON: But the --- just a better flow of water.

JESSIE: Better flow of water.

DON: And it didn't, it didn't go dry. But these wells you couldn't get enough water out of them to water a cow there. And then we went 93 feet on that well out there to get water.

WALLY: What year did you buy this Don?

DON: I bought it in '41.

WALLY: '41.

DON: I rented it in '38. I rented it for 3 years here before I bought it.

WALLY: Who owned it when you rented it, Oakerman?

DON: No.

WALLY: Didn't own it then, did he?

DON: No, it was a loan company. Oakerman's had mortgaged the place.

WALLY: Yeah, they lost it.

DON: And lost it to a man back in --- or a loan company back in Minneapolis. And I never did then --- the fellow's name was Norris, that I got it from. But I, McConnell the attorney there, he was their representative and I bought it through him. I never did see them.

JESSIE: That's the way we got the Dibble place too. We bought it from a loan company.

...

WOMAN: Yeah, her mother-in-law.

JESSIE: When my kiddies were little I lived a way over there. And she'd wait till she thought I got awful behind with all my work, and she would walk over and she would wash dishes, she would iron, she would --- anything there was to do until she got everything caught up, then she'd walk back home. That's the kind of person she was.

WOMAN: Makes me tired to think about it.

JESSIE: Does me too, now. But that's the kind of person she was.

WOMAN: We need a few more nowadays like that.

JESSIE: And her sister, her sister Mother Williams lived down there, and every so often they'd walk back and forth to visit each other, just take off through the field.

PATTI: How old is this place, about a hundred?

ZOLA SHIELDS: 1883. And that house is 86 years old. And the cabin is 93 years old.

PATTI: The cabin? This one way over here in this field?

ZOLA: Yes.

PATTI: Uh huh.

ZOLA: We'll go out there if you'd like.

WOMAN: You knew Tom Shields was the first county judge, 1889?

WOMAN: That'd be ...

DON: Mrs. Shields married Virgil Shields, and Virgil Shields is the son of the first county judge.

PATTI: Oh, I see. I knew Ross.

ZOLA: Did you?

PATTI: Uh huh, yeah.

ZOLA: That was my son.

PATTI: Yeah, I know.

ZOLA: Well he announced the last time that I went to visit him that he's getting old too!

PATTI: (Laughter) How's he doing anyway?

ZOLA: Oh, fine.

PATTI: As I remember him ---

WOMAN: Mr. Shields was judge, and one whose ancestors have been coming back. And I think Jessie said the last time they left a \$50 donation to the museum, and they bought a plaque on there, and ---

JESSIE: Gave \$200 for the plaque too.

WOMAN: And they've just been tremendously interested. Well he, his --- Lionel Howard was the commissioner when Mr. Shields was judge. And a James, a T. B. James, that would be George's father, you know, of the Harney County, was a commissioner. Of course if you stop at the Bob Williams place --- Bob Williams was a county commissioner, Jessie's father-in-law, in 1900. He was a commissioner for 2 years, and then he came on and stayed on, and 2 years later when Levins was judge he as commissioner again, Bob Williams. Then we get to the best, we'll tell you about him, we had another commissioner out here.

DON: Well then later Bob Williams was the county judge.

WOMAN: Yeah, he was the county judge, you see, in the '30's. Bob Williams was the county judge. Grand old man.

WALLY: 1928, wasn't it?

JESSIE: Yes, he was a grand old man.

WALLY: Right after Johnson, why then ---

WOMAN: Yeah, he was after Ace Johnson.

WALLY: Then he was predecessor to Higgs, say he died in office and Higgs was appointed.

...

MAN: Up here and the flooring came from Camp Harney. They took the flooring from a place out at Camp Harney and put in for the floor.

...

ZOLA: Until I look it up in "Harney County and Its Range Lands," I'm not sure whether he lived at Dairy Creek with the group that "dairied" that Jessie told you about, or whether he came directly here first. They lived in this cabin from '83 to '90. And he had that house completed by 1890. And they built on a room in '93. Ruby Street was born in that room.

PAULINE: Of the main house here? Of the ---

ZOLA: The old house.

PAULINE: The old house, okay. Now you said that they, this --- that they hauled the logs here from, from up north?

ZOLA: I suppose, I never asked. I have always taken it for granted. But the lumber for the floors was all sawed up at a little mill in the Ochoco.

MAN: Okay, thank you Betty.

PAULINE: This is a plow that you've donated to the museum?

ZOLA: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And it's a walking plow?

ZOLA: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Do you have any idea how old it is?

ZOLA: No, I don't. Ah, maybe someone in your group knows how long ago walking plows were used.

PAULINE: We'll ---

WOMAN: I ought to get Tommy to tell you, he knows more about it than I would.

PAULINE: Okay. We're talking about the construction of the shed here, of the old homestead house and ---

WOMAN: You get Tommy, because he knows more about ---

PAULINE: Well why don't you tell me what you know, and then I'll get Tom too.

WOMAN: Well mortise is the groove, and tenon is the thing that slides in. That much I know.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

WOMAN: No nails, see how they groove it in?

PAULINE: Uh huh. I've never heard that terminology before, I just, you know no nail construction or ---

WOMAN: Uh huh.

PAULINE: --- or groove and ---

WOMAN: That's the name of it, but Tommy --- I had to ask him what it was. He told me what it was, so he could tell you I think, a little more about it than I would.

PAULINE: Okay, I'll talk to him too.

...

WOMAN: Where did they get all the trees?

WOMAN: ... when you look around. ... they always come up and ask me where in God's

name did they get the trees for the mill?

...

ZOLA: Oh, heavens no.

WOMAN: How in the world can they have had a mill there, if there's no trees out here. ...

... (Inaudible)

ZOLA: Pauline.

PAULINE: Yes.

ZOLA: I was going to tell you about these excavations in this back room, or did you hear me?

PAULINE: No I didn't, let me turn my tape recorder on. Okay, now we're going to talk about the Judge Steele's homestead house again. There's some excavations under the -

--

ZOLA: Well it's in this back room here; you can see them --- be careful. There's quite a big one there, and another one there. And --- after they had moved to the other house, sometime after, they were going clear to Lakeview and Northern California, Alturas, to get fresh things, you know, potatoes, apples, and all the things it takes. And they took the fireplace down, and the big chimney and lined these excavations with those stones. And that's where they kept the root supplies ---

PAULINE: Oh, uh huh.

ZOLA: --- for the winter. She said it worked beautifully, long as they needed it. And then when it was just the two of them she said they just quit using it.

PAULINE: Huh. That would, that would make ---

ZOLA: Isn't it wonderful to be that age.

PATTI: Yeah, hey, that's old stuff.

ZOLA: Tom Shields made ---

PATTI: I'll be darned.

ZOLA: And he covered the old house and --- the shop, that's the building that's leaning dangerously up here by the gate.

PATTI: Uh huh.

ZOLA: And the smoke house ---

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ZOLA: --- and this had been covered of course, years before.

PATTI: Barbie ---

GIRL: He's coming.

PATTI: Yeah, but don't, honey, don't tear up nothing.

JESSIE: And they didn't have any authorization to do it, and had to tear it all down. There was all the insulators out there in the flat. Ruby and I picked up a lot of them and put it in our telephone line. (Laughter)

ETHEL HOTCHKISS: You wasn't snitchin', was ya?

PAULINE: Ethel, can you tell me about this viney bush over here, that green stuff? What is that?

ETHEL: Well it's matrimonial vine, but that's all I know it. It was just, everybody used to plant it, honey.

PAULINE: The reason I ask is, I found right out in the middle of an absolutely dry desolate place, why some of that stuff is growing.

JESSIE: Well there must have been a house there.

PAULINE: There was a house there.

ETHEL: It was over there at our old place there too, Pauline.

PAULINE: Yeah.

ETHEL: There was some of it right along that rock wall there.

PAULINE: It must be really hardy stuff.

ETHEL: Oh, yes.

JESSIE: It did need water.

PAULINE: Does it have --- and it has a little purple flower, a little tiny ---

ETHEL: Does it? I've forgotten, does it have a purple flower, I've forgotten?

PAULINE: Yeah. Okay.

WOMAN: Prizes for, you know ---

PAULINE: Food ---

ETHEL: This grew for a shrub --- or vine or shrub, and then the Bouncing Betty grew, you know how it grew all around in a great big ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

BESSIE CLEMENS: There's a lot of that out at the ranch yet. Teresa was wondering the other day what it was, and I said, "Well it's Bouncing Betty."

ETHEL: Does she live out there, Teresa?

BESSIE: On our place.

ETHEL: Oh, does she?

BESSIE: Uh huh.

...

PAULINE: This is where you lived, Jessie, then?

JESSIE: Uh huh, yeah.

PAULINE: And you said, who helped you set out the trees?

JESSIE: Our little boy that we lost.

PAULINE: Oh, really?

JESSIE: Uh huh. Yeah, he was about 6 years old.

PAULINE: Is ---

WOMAN: What kind of trees are they ...

JESSIE: Oh, just the --- the elm is what they are. Except that one is a Scotch pine there, we set that out too. And there should have been, there's ---

PAULINE: A locust tree.

JESSIE: Well it's a locust, but it's a honey --- not the honey--- yeah this is honey locust instead of the black locust. We had a lot of them.

PAULINE: Is the house basically the same shape as it was, I mean

JESSIE: We had a --- you see we had a porch out here, and they closed that all in.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

JESSIE: That's what this is. When Mary was here we just had a porch out there.

BARBIE ENGSTROM: Who's house is this?

JESSIE: It used to be mine, honey.

PAULINE: And you lived here from the time you were married until about ---

JESSIE: Well no, we didn't live here until after we'd been married about five or six years, then I lived here. We raised our family right here.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

JESSIE: Uh huh. We sold it in 1948.

PAULINE: You moved into Burns then, didn't you?

JESSIE: Uh huh.

...

PAULINE: Tell me about --- that's where Peck Amort lived for a while isn't it, right back of here?

MAN: Right back here in those little trees. The little house right behind those trees. Old Gus Zogleman had the bigger house there. And Peck Amort was in this house, this side.

PAULINE: Uh huh. And you say he --- what, he killed coyotes for a living or ---

WOMAN: That was Walt Lowe.

MAN: No, that was Walt Lowe.

PAULINE: I mean Walt Lowe.

MAN: Yeah, and he trapped all this desert country out here --- there for years. And that was his headquarters right there. It's all tore down now, there are just a few stumps or something this side the road there.

PAULINE: Yeah.

WOMAN: How many hundred coyotes would he have at a time?

MAN: I couldn't count that many. (Laughter)

PAULINE: Did he try to save the hides and things, or did he just

MAN: Oh, that was what he was trapping them for, was the hides.

PAULINE: Yeah. So he'd have them out on stretchers, out all over the place I imagine.

MAN: The --- most of the wintertime was cold, boy, I don't know how he took care of most of them, but then he stretched them. That was his livelihood, was selling them. His wife trapped with him, and they --- I think they run Model-T Fords all over the desert out here. I don't know how many miles of trap line.

PAULINE: I think we picked up one of his traps out at the tanks when we were out there this summer. I'll go home and look at the initials on it, but I'm just sure it was Walt Lowe's traps that we picked up out there at tanks.

MAN: Could have been.

WALLY: He had a suit made out of buckskin, you remember that?

MAN: Yeah.

WALLY: Walt.

MAN: He was a hunter and a trapper. That was his --- vocation.

PAULINE: Hey Jessie, you taught school here, didn't you?

JESSIE: I just substituted for one of the teachers.

PAULINE: You substituted.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: What can you tell us about the old schoolhouse?

JESSIE: Well, I don't know.

PAULINE: Was it called the Suntex School or the Riley School?

JESSIE: Well I think they changed it over to Suntex School after Riley. We just called it the Silver Creek School.

PAULINE: Silver Creek School.

JESSIE: Uh huh. Until after Riley was out, and then they called it the Suntex School. I don't know why, because Suntex was clear up the other side here, miles clear up. But all of the Williams boys, and all of Shields, and the Bedell girls, and all the Thornes, and Gibsons, and Charlie and Pansy Spencer --- well they had a big school, always had a big school here. They'd be one year, maybe we'd have a half a dozen, and then the next year we'd have twenty, thirty.

PAULINE: Go ahead, Zola.

ZOLA: Part of the term that I taught here, there were sixteen.

WOMAN: She's down at the museum. That's from the old Suntex School.

PAULINE: You were the --- you were a teacher here, regular ---

ZOLA: Yes.

PAULINE: More than just a substitute.

ZOLA: The winter of --- what was it; I'm having a mental block.

PAULINE: Is this when you met Virgil?

ZOLA: Yes.

PAULINE: Was when you were teaching school here? That's how you got into this country?

ZOLA: Uh huh.

PAULINE: There were quite a few young ladies that got trapped out here, weren't there?

ZOLA: Yes.

PAULINE: Did you just teach one year?

ZOLA: Yes, just the one year here. And then later Virgil was working where we couldn't get housing, so I had gone to visit my folks and spend Christmas with them, and the teacher that was here --- I don't know if she was quit, she quit, she had a child with scarlet fever I know at the time. She went home to Paulina and that was in February, and they got in touch with me and asked me to come and finish the term. That was the next year. I believe that first year would be '20, '21. The next year would be, it was '22, at the time.

PAULINE: And you had about sixteen kids when you had ---

ZOLA: No, not all the time. Just --- I'll tell Jessie about it later. Just ---

PAULINE: Harry went to school here?

JESSIE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And he would be 83.

JESSIE: 83. He'd of been 6 years old probably when he started to school.

PAULINE: And the school had been here for a long time?

JESSIE: Long time then, uh huh. I always remember Bert Williams, was one of Mrs. Thorne's sons, and he threw --- Frank Thorne threw a ball one day, and it went through a window. His brother --- his half-brother was standing there, and he said, "Bert, why did you dodge?" He ---

PAULINE: If he hadn't have ducked, it would have hit him instead of the window.

JESSIE: The Williams's come from away down there, they drove a--- come in a cart with an old horse that they called Kit. And they drove up here all the time. And Mrs. Williams boarded the teachers sometimes.

WOMAN: Yeah.

JESSIE: And Mrs. Shields did too.

WOMAN: Uh huh.

WOMAN: Rose Dickerson was teaching school when Pete, when Pete French was killed. She was teaching school out here.

ZOLA: That's a long time ago.

JESSIE: Uh huh. So you see this school is an old one.

WOMAN: I don't know why they wanted to sell it. What good --- what harm was it doing here?

WOMAN: Jessie ---

JESSIE: The Bedell girls went to school here.

WOMAN: Is that right?

JESSIE: Uh huh, and see Henry went to school here, and he'd have been 93 years old --- 93 --- 83 years old is what I meant.

OLIVIA WITHERS: But look how well the paint is on that house.

JESSIE: But they've kept it up.

OLIVIA: Yes, sure they've kept it up, but ---

JESSIE: That's one thing they have done.

ZOLA: I know who painted it the first time --- Tom Shields and Virgil. Virgil was 12 years old.

OLIVIA: They was the first ones to paint it.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

OLIVIA: And it has always been painted then, hasn't it?

JESSIE: Yes, since then.

ZOLA: Ever since that. Well, if Virgil was 12, that would be in

JESSIE: I can't think when they built this little part on. That wasn't on here at first. There was just a ---

ZOLA: Gus built this.

JESSIE: Gus Zogleman.

ZOLA: Uh huh. He took the contract to putting that vestibule on.

JESSIE: It wasn't there when ---

ZOLA: Like everything else, Jessie, it was fought for with blood, sweat, and tears.

JESSIE: Yeah. When Mary --- when Mary Welcome Brady taught out here, that wasn't on there. And they still had the bucket with the little dipper in it. I forget what we did to earn money, but we done something.

WOMAN: Mary had them each bring their own glass, or cup, didn't she?

JESSIE: Well, after that they got a fountain, one of those --- jars, you know, that filtered the water. They done something to earn the money and they bought one of those. And then they each brought their own cup, and everyone had their own cup after that. But that was before this was even put on the building. First and eighth grade both in the same room, and that's why they have two rooms over here.

HELEN COWAN: Well they were expecting a larger population out here, weren't they? We were told they expected a lumber mill to go in here.

ZOLA: Oh wait, there were years when both rooms were needed.

JESSIE: Oh, yes. Oh well, that was always the case. We'd have 25 one year, and the next year maybe 6. People just move in, and go on.

ZOLA: That's been the history of that.

JESSIE: Yes, this school.

HELEN: I started teaching one year with 12 --- with 9 in the class --- in the school. Ended with 9. But in between those, June and September, I had 22 kids pass through. They weren't all the same 9 that I ended with.

JESSIE: I can imagine that, because that's the way it always was.

HELEN: It was harrowing.

JESSIE: Bats was made out of boards about so wide.

HELEN: Well this was used as a gym for many years.

JESSIE: Yes, it has been.

HELEN: It has been boarded up since then, I think. The state took issue with that.

JESSIE: Yeah.

HELEN: I did too, when I taught here. I thought it was too small for all those kids to be banging balls and things around in.

JESSIE: Well what are they going to use for a gym now?

HELEN: Do like others, don't have a gym. The other room there you can use for some games, you know.

JESSIE: How many would you have if you had the eighth grade and all here now?

HELEN: I don't know. How many kids go to Burns now?

JESSIE: I don't know.

ZOLA: Oh, about 12 or 13 in there.

HELEN: I don't know, I have no idea.

DICK COWAN: Yeah, I think they have 8 kids.

...

PAULINE: It's part of the, it's part of the Lincoln District, isn't it?

HELEN: No.

DICK: No.

PAULINE: No, it wouldn't be. It's ---

HELEN: It's part of the basic school fund.

DICK: Yeah. These schools are 90 percent equalized anyhow.

PAULINE: Yeah.

DICK: Burns District has been real good about ---

JESSIE: I'm trying to find out what you wanted to know.

DICK: --- real good about taking our kids, and Hines too.

JESSIE: We took our youngsters to high school. And Robby was in the --- just going to school. We had to pay a tuition to our --- this district paid it for us. That's been a long time ago. That was in '40, in the '40's.

HELEN: Well this is in the high school district.

JESSIE: Well it was in the high school district then, and I couldn't see why we should have ---

ZOLA: It has never have been anything but a high school district since 19, ah '28.

JESSIE: Jimmy Donegan came out here one time and explained to them when they put that tax --- put us in that district, and I can't think what year it was. It was a long time ago.

WALLY: That old Sagehen Schoolhouse was moved into Hines, before the Hines School was built. And they moved that when Hines, you know, came in. Why then the Sagehen Schoolhouse sit on the left, you know ---

JESSIE: Yes.

WALLY: --- right across. They moved that into Hines, and that was the Hines schoolhouse first, then that's when that area went into the Hines District. It was a wooden building. Oh, I don't think it was ---

JESSIE: Don't believe it was quite as long.

DON: Quite as big as this one.

DICK: ... of this school, was Dorothy Macomber. Oh, I suppose six or seven years ago, maybe --- and a guest at that graduation we had Ruby Street, who was at that time in her late 80's, who was the oldest living graduate of the school.

JESSIE: I think I was out here with Ruby that morning.

DICK: Yeah, yeah, I think you came too, Jessie. That's right.

JESSIE: I never went to school with her though.

DICK: That was the last time we had a graduating class here.

PAULINE: Dorothy Macomber --- Dorothy Macomber, graduated in 1969. Helen Cowan was her teacher. They were telling about the building --- the windows on the south side were boarded up, because the state passed a law which did not --- they couldn't have a cross light, so that the windows on the north and south side of the building was too many windows, and they had to board up the south side of the building.

It's the North Silver Creek Ranch headquarters now, and what did it used to be?

JESSIE: It used to be --- ah Foster, what was his name? Ike Foster, Ike and America Foster used to own it.

PAULINE: Did she used to be America --- she was America Sutherland later.

JESSIE: Sutherland. They had one boy, Frank. He went to school down here with all the rest of the kids.

PAULINE: Is this a water storage bin?

JESSIE: Uh huh. Had a big tank on the ---

WOMAN: Windmill, you know.

JESSIE: A windmill.

PAULINE: Is it all wood construction inside, or is it just wood on the outside?

JESSIE: All wood.

PAULINE: Wood on the outside.

JESSIE: And probably a wooden tank at that time, you know. They didn't have too many

PAULINE: I wonder how many gallons of water it would hold. A lot of water, wouldn't it?

JESSIE: Oh, a lot.

WOMAN: They were really big, those tanks, you know. A lot of them were wooden tanks, and some of them metal, but ---

JESSIE: And then Fosters sold it to Davey Jones. Well I never did know for sure now --- I think Sutherland, and then she --- after Mr. Foster died she married Sutherland, and they lived here a long time. And they sold it to Davey Jones. That was the way of it. You know, you forget these things. Then Davey Jones sold it to Homer Carlon.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

WOMAN: You didn't know Jones, did you?

PAULINE: Yeah, I remember but, just you know, the name more than the person.

WOMAN: But some of those Fosters that were around Burns for a while were ---

PAULINE: I went to school with the Foster boys.

WOMAN: That was Frank's ---

JESSIE: Frank's sons. He had two girls and two boys.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

WOMAN: Davey Jones ran sheep out here.

PAULINE: Yeah.

...

PAULINE: What was that other name?

MAN: Jones and Linehan.

WOMAN: Yeah. L I N E H A N. Linehan.

PAULINE: Spell it again.

WOMAN: L I N E H A N.

JESSIE: Linehan.

PAULINE: I hadn't heard that name, or if I had, I'd forgotten it.

JESSIE: Well this is where big Joe too ---

WOMAN: Abasola.

JESSIE: Joe Abasola, and what was the other name? Well that fellow owns a --- Foley house now. What's his name?

WOMAN: Oh, Tim Daugherty.

JESSIE: Tim Daugherty worked for Jones. Tim and Bat Daugherty worked for Jones, and then there was some other young fellows that worked ---

WOMAN: Where'd Al Frye live, Jessie?

JESSIE: He lived across the Bell A from --- from Culp's Ranch.

WOMAN: Did he have his own place?

JESSIE: Yes, he had his own place. I think Peck bought that then, maybe. Bought that -
--

PAULINE: Now who's place was --- is it, that's right across from the schoolhouse back there?

JESSIE: That big barn and all?

PAULINE: Yeah.

JESSIE: That was the Thorne place.

PAULINE: Right up on the hill, just across the road from the schoolhouse.

JESSIE: Uh huh. That was Rolley Thorne --- his grandfather's. Brought it up --- his dad built that big barn. Rolley's dad --- I mean ... didn't call him Rolley. Rolley was the

grandfather's name. And they called him Ronnie.

DICK: What we'll see up at Carl's is Carl's shop. Carl moved it up there.

JESSIE: Oh, it didn't burn down?

DICK: Oh, no. No, it's a dandy shop.

JESSIE: Oh.

PAULINE: They moved the Grange Hall from here to Carl Mayo's ---

JESSIE: Oh, I'm glad to know that.

PAULINE: Okay. Do you know when they first built the Grange here, when they started the Grange here, or ---

JESSIE: It was going in 1914 when I --- when Harry and I came out.

WOMAN: It just sat right here on this knoll? Or ---

JESSIE: Yeah, right ---

DICK: Right back there.

WOMAN: Right on top there.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

WOMAN: Huh. Well I'll have to put that in my minutes.

PAULINE: Well when did they disorganize then? Did they ---

JESSIE: Well I don't know what ---

PAULINE: --- or disband?

JESSIE: Well I don't know what year. Lots of them moved away, and some of them died or something, and nobody else took any interest in it.

PAULINE: Was it before you moved to town, or after?

JESSIE: Oh, yes. Oh yes, long before. Uh huh.

DICK: When we first moved here in 1950, why the Hall was still up, and they used to have dances in the hall then. And I think they had them for four or five years.

JESSIE: Well there was a great big stove in one corner, and they kept the wood out back of that too. And then we come up here and we built a platform in the back end of that, curtains and all, so Mary could have her plays or any other teachers that had it. And then we'd --- then when Mary was here the roof was leaking. And we come up here, and there was ice all over the floor. So they had to keep a fire, get it thawed out.

PAULINE: They just build up a big fire and let it thaw out, dry out?

JESSIE: Uh huh, dry out.

PAULINE: And Mary --- who was the teacher?

JESSIE: Mary Welcome.

PAULINE: Mary Welcome.

JESSIE: Uh huh. And Wanda West --- hers up here. But I'll tell you what Mary taught the kids --- Mary had such a way of teaching youngsters music. She had her pitch pipe and all --- we'd all help her with it. But she had such a way with the youngsters. Well Wanda come along, and she couldn't carry a tune. And she was trying to teach these youngsters these songs, and Mrs. Lowe and I got together, and I said, "What are we going to do?" Mary was coming out to the program. Said we can't let our kids go up there and sing like that. So we got our four girls together, Mrs. Lowe and I, and we made them get onto the tune, and learn their song so Mary wouldn't have to listen to them. The very songs that Mary had taught them, and they just sang it most any way. Well we had lots of fun doing it though.

PAULINE: Jessie, was it the Riley Grange Hall, or the --- or was it the Suntex Grange Hall ---

JESSIE: Everybody, everything belonged to Silver Creek that was out here.

PAULINE: It was the Silver Creek Grange Hall.

JESSIE: Yes.

MAN: Where did the name Suntex come from?

JESSIE: Well it took a notion to start another post office. Who was it that had it out there?

HELEN: Best, Mabel.

JESSIE: Well she had it before. It was another fellow.

MAN: And that was down at your place?

HELEN: That wasn't Suntex then.

PAULINE: Well we'll get that story then in a few minutes.

MAN: Yeah.

...

PAULINE: You said Mrs. Betts lived --- Best.

DICK: Mrs. Best.

PAULINE: Best, B E S T.

DICK: Mrs. Best lived here in an old house that was built on the same floor plan, by the same person as at the Silver Creek Ranch. And the house was built, I think, in 1904 wasn't it Helen?

HELEN: That's what I was told.

DICK: Yeah. And Mrs. Best came here as a bride in 1912. And the house was still here, and she moved off it when we bought the ranch in 1961. So she was here for just about 50 years. And the old store and post office were apparently down about, oh three quarters of a mile from here. And the old Sturgess Store, was that it Jessie? And they had a store down there, and I'm not sure of the chronology, but when they gave it up Mrs. Best kept the post office here, the Suntex Post Office.

JESSIE: Well the Riley Post Office had ---

WALLY: She kept it as Suntex until 1948.

PAULINE: Who was?

WOMAN: Zola.

MAN: Is that it?

ZOLA: I say Fred Sturgess was the first postmaster.

JESSIE: Well didn't he send out names, trying to get the name for that post office? And some youngster sent in ---

ZOLA: He sent one that wasn't acceptable, because there already was one in Oregon, and the postal department made this name up.

JESSIE: Oh.

ZOLA: That submitted it.

DICK: That's what Mrs. Best told us. Just out of the blue they submitted the name of Suntex, and that's what it was. And Mrs. Best, the story I got from her, she --- post office was in a back room, and all these old bachelors who lived in the hills here, and Mrs. Best would keep their mail for them. And she'd, pile up for three or four months, then when they'd have a dance at the Grange Hall why they would all come in, and ---

PATTI: That Grange Hall back there?

DICK: Yeah. And Mrs. Best would have their mail for them.

JESSIE: Yeah. I remember very well. When Gus was in the army, we hadn't heard from him for months. When the stage had left here she called me, she said, "Jessie, it's coming." And I had a letter from him. He was back in the Hawaiian Islands then, so he was all right.

WOMAN: Woodie Best was county commissioner in 1904, that was Best's husband.

DICK: Oh, I didn't know that.

WOMAN: Yeah.

PAULINE: His name was Woodie?

WOMAN: Woodie, W --- yeah, there was a young Woodie. We always called him Woodie. W. L. Best was his name, but we ---

WALLY: W. L. and ... two Bests, Woodie Best.

WOMAN: 1904, he was the county commissioner. I don't know ---

WOMAN: She originally, with her husband, owned the house we lived in when we were first married, across from the Oakerman house, where I said there had been a big barn, and a store, and a dance hall. I think her name was Ethel Embree.

JESSIE: Oh yes, she married Embree.

ZOLA: Oh, she married Doc Embree, and then she died, and Doc married--- this was Bill Williams' mother.

...

ZOLA: ... he recently died, Fred Sturgess.

WOMAN: Yes.

ZOLA: He was at Coos Bay, and Ruby was corresponding with him, and he sent some pictures. He looked remarkable for his age. And all of a sudden he didn't answer a letter. And someone, some of the relatives wrote and said that he had passed away. What?

DON: About how old was he when he died?

ZOLA: What?

DON: About how old was he when he died?

ZOLA: Oh, I don't know. He seemed old to me, because I was young when he run the post office, but he might have been 30, maybe more. But I know he was --- I can't repeat the age because I have forgotten, but it was an advanced age when he died at Coos Bay.

DICK: Built with square nails, and the carpentry work --- these pieces are fitted and then doweled in there. If you want to go in there, you can ---

PATTI: That's original, huh?

DICK: Yes.

HELEN: Very.

DICK: I don't know how old it is. Grant Barney, who used to live on Buck Creek was here in the early '30's, and he talks about milking 25 or 30 cows morning and night in there. And so it's older than that.

PAULINE: I'd like to do down, I always like to look at these ---

SIDE B

...

PAULINE: You just sit still and ---

CARL MAYO: I don't have to talk into that do I?

PAULINE: No, I'll just hold it here and ---

CARL: Well first I'd like to welcome all of you here, and glad you could stop by on your tour. And this is Indian Spring you are sitting by here, that was the original name. And then the --- established a fort here in about 1864, and they named it Currey Spring then, after General Currey. They were here a short time, and that fort was abandoned. And --- the Cecil family came here in about 1871, and built a cabin just across the springs here, a log cabin. Cut the trees up the canyon here, and drug them down. And that burned --- but anyway the Cecil family has been here since, since 1871. Started out running --- raising mules, and horses, and trailing the mules to the Sacramento Valley. Each year they would trail mules down there, young mules. And they broke these mules down there. They had a ranch down there, and one of the brothers lived there, the other one lived here. Anyway, I'm Carl Mayo and I've lived here about 40 years myself.

JESSIE: No, he hasn't been here that long, has he?

CARL: Count up, Jessie. (Laughter)

...

CARL: Well right here, just right here Tommy, just below the ditch here.

WOMAN: Right near the springs?

CARL: Yeah, yeah.

WOMAN: Well they had lots of good ...

CARL: And they had a, they had a cellar in the hillside here, and that still shows where they --- where it's still dug out. There's nothing there, no timber or anything. But there was a cellar there in the hills.

DON: I suppose they sold their mules to ...

CARL: Yeah, yeah, that was just the way they did it. They broke them down there. And they started plowing with them, and then sold them right out of the teams, right out off of the plow to the farmers that would come. Broke them their selves.

JESSIE: Margaret Williams has all, had Daddy Williams' trunks, their trunks down there. And here awhile back she brought me some letters, and some of those letters was from Harry's father to his mother when he had driven horses down there.

CARL: Yeah.

JESSIE: I have them there at home.

CARL: Yeah, like Dairy Creek.

JESSIE: Yes.

CARL: Was named after the Williams family, taking their cows up there, and keeping them in the summer, milking them and ---

JESSIE: Making butter.

CARL: --- just skim the milk; dump the milk in the creek, and the creek is cloudy yet from Bob dumping that milk in it. (Laughter) That's what they always told. That's what Charlie used to say, yeah.

JESSIE: He said he got up one morning, and on the rim right above where their camp was; there was a whole bunch of Indians right along the rim looking down on them. Said they went on about their work, and they never did bother them. Guess they didn't see any horses, all they had was cows.

WALLY: Well tell them Carl, from where that battle of Silver Creek took place at. I mean down on that area ... think it was here, but it wasn't.

JESSIE: Not, no, down at the battleground, wasn't it?

CARL: I guess those were Paiute Indians, weren't they?

WALLY: Yeah.

JESSIE: No, not all of them, Bannocks.

CARL: Paiutes --- Bannocks and Paiutes kind of banded together, I guess. Left the reservation, came over through this country, and they stopped in --- well this is all written, I don't need to talk about that, it's in books. But anyway, they killed cattle and shot one man, and a few things around Diamond Valley. Burned a cabin or two. And came on up by the Double O, and up Silver Creek and around Harney Lake, and up Silver Creek. And General Howard with troops was sent out to get them back on the reservation. He wasn't supposed to have a fight with them, or a war. Anyway, the Indians camped in the lower -- - oh about 10 miles below this point, or 12 miles, and they had a little skirmish there. Then the Indians came on up Silver Creek, and Carl Cecil and the men that were here then, the buckaroos went to Prineville and stayed until the Indians left, I guess.

JESSIE: Well isn't that what the Howard Ridge is named after, General Howard?

CARL: The Indians went right on up Silver Creek, and up over --- pulled out of the creek at the upper valley, and went up Howard Ridge. And General Howard followed them and camped along up there. And one spring named Howard Spring, and then they named the whole ridge there. And the old --- was the old road before there were any logging roads

here, then they named it Howard Ridge, and that was the end of that.

DICK: Was there actually a battle down there Carl? Did they ---

CARL: Well not a real battle, they --- I guess maybe they exchanged some shots Dick, the way I understand it. But they wounded this one chief, I guess. Shot this one chief, wounded him. And then the Indians, that's when they took off. Then they ---

DICK: They run ...

CARL: They left in the night, the Indians pulled out in the night. They had this skirmish in the afternoon and then the Indians left in the night, and came on up the creek. And I don't, to my knowledge they never did really catch up with them. They weren't trying to catch up with them; they were just trying to get them back to the Warm Springs Reservation.

WALLY: There are two different accounts on that. Morris Fitzgerald, with the settlers that come back, disagrees with the army report of Washington that went in at that time. Because Bernard was in command of the troops, and Fitzgerald loss over who was at Harney at that time, had come out. And the two reports disagree exactly what happened, and they contradict each other. And Fitzgerald always maintained that Howard, you know, I mean didn't give Bernard enough credit for it. And the settlers didn't get enough credit.

CARL: Yeah, I've heard some of that too. I guess Pete French's and his buckaroo outfit were with the army down here.

DICK: Oh, here?

CARL: Yeah. Right here where they caught up with them. So they --- since they had been around Diamond there, you see, they were just kind of trying to follow them and get them out of the country. And when the soldiers came along, I don't know where the soldiers got together with them. Probably they came from Harney, didn't

they Wally?

WALLY: Yes, they crossed there.

CARL: Crossed there someplace.

JESSIE: I never can follow them ...

CARL: None of them, none of them like Wally said, there are two or three different accounts of it.

JESSIE: Well any you read, it seems to me like they say they go so far in such a short time. And I don't think they ever went that far.

CARL: Why they didn't go over ---

JESSIE: Camp Harney was a long ways from Diamond a horseback.

CARL: Ten or fifteen miles a day. Well they could go faster if they wanted to though, you know, if they needed to. They could go forty miles in a day if they needed to, horseback.

JESSIE: Yes, if we could come from Burns to Oakerman in four hours on a sled, why ---

CARL: Well the men here used to go into Burns in a day, you know, no problem.

JESSIE: Yeah.

MAN: How far is that Carl?

CARL: Huh?

MAN: How far is that Carl?

CARL: Forty miles. That isn't far.

MAN: We lived 52 miles from Heppner, a trading point, and my dad had a --- he'd hook up a driving team and drive into Heppner in a day. And --- or go on horseback, he'd make it in a day. Of course it was a long day, you know. Remember him leaving long before daylight, and it was always dark when he got back.

CARL: I remember Pat Cecil talking about he'd been to the dentist in Burns, and had a tooth --- oh, I don't know, packed, and was supposed to get back to the dentist in 3 or 4

days. And anyway in the night it got to hurting so bad he saddled his horse and rode to town and got to town before daylight. Got in there before the dentist opened his office. But he was sitting on the step when the dentist came down to open his shop.

DICK: It really hurt him, didn't it?

CARL: Must have.

...

CARL: What Eleanor?

ELEANOR: The Dibble place. Did they point out the Dibble place, we --- Jessie told us where all it was. You know the Burns Hotel was run by Del Dibble in Burns, and he was really quite a character. Kind of an Archie Bunker type. And his brother, Frank Dibble, lived out here. Well they had a son Willie who was --- had lots of modern ideas. He had a fine car, and was going to Bend. Well they had kind of a stage route to Bend or something, didn't they?

JESSIE: Uh huh.

WOMAN: Yeah, they did.

ELEANOR: And they got out --- I don't know just what point in the desert, do you know where it was Wally?

WALLY: I couldn't hear what you were saying.

ELEANOR: Well about Willie Dibble, and the --- the stealing Willie Dibble, taking his car away from him out on the desert.

WALLY: Oh, that was Al Frye and Bill Dibble coming back with that new Chrysler from Bend.

ELEANOR: Yeah, and anyway he ---

WALLY: And it was right out --- that was 19 --- the fall of 1926. Clifford Cook, yeah.

ELEANOR: --- these two young men ... that Ralph Burns and Clifford Cook stopped them

and took the car away from Willie and ran off with it. And came on through Burns and went down, as far as I know near close to the Fisher Ranch, wasn't it?

WALLY: Yeah, that's where Clark shot him. I mean not Clarence, but ... or Al Frye ...

ELEANOR: The sheriff ... and shot through the back of his car and hit this Ralph Burns. It paralyzed him, hit one leg. We had him in jail. I was working for Clarence in the sheriff's office then, and all that winter. They were California boys. Clifford Cook was a real nice kid, about 17. And Ralph Burns was a little wayward, anyway he was older. We had them in jail all winter. Clifford was put on parole. We had him under parole for ten years. And he never missed a month on his parole, Clifford. It was after I went to college and came back and worked with him. Charlie Frazier took the parole from Clarence, you know, thing. That boy, he became a Marine officer. He'd write us from China and everywhere. Well anyway, that incident on the desert, Willie losing his fine car, I'll tell you was something.

WALLY: ... sold Chryslers, see. He was a Chrysler agent see, and he and Al Frye. And so when they came through it rained, that was in the last of November. And Clarence and Al Frye went out, that's how they tracked it, I mean the car tracks. They went on out to --- past Crane. They were dirt roads then, you know, I mean. And then the next morning, and then that's when they saw where this had pulled off of the road.

CARL: Yeah.

WALLY: That's when, that's when --- they shot ...

JESSIE: You mean down through Crane and that way ---

WALLY: Right down by the Fisher Ranch, just about a quarter of a mile from the Malheur County line.

CARL: You have all been down by the Oakerman place, that was the stage stop. They stayed in Burns, I guess, one night. Came out to the Oakerman place, and that was a

night stop over. Then they came right by here, between these two --- the, between my house and the ranch house, the old ranch house, and up this hill on the west side of Silver Creek. You can still see the tracks out there where they went up through the rocks with an iron wheel wagon, stage.

JESSIE: Well where would they stay that night?

CARL: They stayed at Buck Creek.

DICK: Buck Creek.

JESSIE: Bill Brown's.

CARL: Yeah, stay at Bill Brown's at Buck Creek, there at the store. And that --- well I don't know that kind of a two-story house is there yet.

JESSIE: Is it still there?

DICK: Store is too.

JESSIE: And he built that, you know, he was going to build a nursery in there and raise a family. And --- the girl he wanted why, wouldn't marry him, so ---

PAULINE: Ruby Street told me that they used to hold dances in the nursery at Bill Brown's house.

JESSIE: Uh huh. Yes, it was her sister that he wanted to marry.

CARL: Yeah, it's still here.

ELEANOR: Did he ever get married?

PAULINE: No. Ruby said that Bill would come and he'd bring her candy, and she just thought he was the most wonderful thing that ever lived. And her sister wouldn't have anything to do with him. Ruby said he bought her a fine watch, and she wouldn't take it from him.

JESSIE: Wanted to buy her a piano, and everything, you know. Her folks wouldn't let her have them.

PAULINE: But Ruby said she thought he was pretty nice, because he always had candy for her. She was just a little girl, you know.

JESSIE: His nephew was back here --- oh, last summer I guess it was, after Ruby passed away.

CARL: Yeah. Bill Brown lived a hard life.

JESSIE: Two years ago I guess. And he said that he always came through every year or two, but he hasn't been back since.

ELEANOR: You ought to tell them the ... West story about Bill Brown, Wally.

WALLY: I told it this morning.

ELEANOR: Oh, did you?

PAULINE: Well why don't you tell it again, I didn't hear it.

WALLY: Well when I was telling Dick when Governor West had a, Governor of the State of Oregon, they was a western governors meeting in Boise, Idaho. So he rode horseback and he wanted to go by Bill Brown. Bill Brown, he was at Wagontire at that time, so that's the route he went. And it was in July of 1912. And so when he stopped, why when he went out it was still late in the afternoon and Bill was still haying, you know, mowing hay. And so when they came in, he had a fairly good-sized house out at Wagontire, you know. But so anyway, when he got done why Bill gave him supper. And that bedroom, they had a double bed, and the fact that he was the governor of the State of Oregon didn't mean a damn thing to Bill, you know. So when it come time to go to bed, why --- when --- of course he had been haying, you know, and it was hot. And he had on red flannel underwear in July, and he had been sweating quite a bit. And West, the governor, had to sleep with him. So the next morning when he left, why he charged him 50 cents for lodging, and 50 cents for supper, and 50 cents for breakfast, and 50 cents for feeding his horse. West reprinted that in the Oregonian one particular time, when the governors were

talking about the campaign troubles and so forth. He also had mentioned one; one time when he had gone to Harney on a campaign thing later, but that was to a governor's conference. He was telling, he thought the politicians had pretty easy going in these particular days, which I suppose was right. But I can imagine about what Bill was, if he had those red flannels in July.

CARL: Yeah, probably had his pockets full of raisins. (Laughter) Bill Brown, if he was out someplace and needed to pay a man off, or write a check for any reason, he'd just pick up any kind of a little board, or a shingle, or anything at hand, or take the paper off a tomato can and write a check, make out a check and give it to the guy. And they'd take it into the bank, and they'd accept it. Yeah, they had some that were written on shingles, and tomato can papers, and things like that.

WALLY: Cigarette papers.

DON: Cigarette papers.

CARL: Cigarette papers, whatever. He didn't ---

ELEANOR: Oh, no.

DICK: Barney always tells how he carried strychnine in his pocket. There wasn't a coyote --- and raisins too! Well I don't know about the same pocket, but it's the same hand. He'd reach in one pocket and got some strychnine, and then reach in, the same hand, and get some raisins. And Barney says once he offered him a handful of raisins. Barney didn't want it very bad.

DON: He would always, when he bought strychnine, he would always test it ... see if it was good or not, you know.

CARL: Taste it.

DON: He built up an immunity to where he could stand it.

JESSIE: He gave lots of money to the colleges and to homes, and everything else, and

then died a pauper. I don't know where ---

CARL: Well he endowed the home where he died.

JESSIE: Did he?

CARL: Yeah.

DICK: Methodist Home.

WALLY: He also made a contribution to Willamette University.

JESSIE: Yes.

MAN: Then he ... contribution to the Methodist Church in Lakeview.

CARL: Yeah, that was the day of the horse, really. He really had thousands and thousands of horses. And sheep, he had lots of sheep too.

JESSIE: And today, the BLM wants to get rid of all the horses. I don't think those horses hurt the range that much. They run cattle and horses ---

CARL: I suppose we gathered a 1,000 head of horses right here and shipped out of these corrals, and a lot of those were horseshoe bar horses.

JESSIE: Horseshoe bar horses.

CARL: Yeah. A lot of horses, chicken feed right out of these corrals here.

JESSIE: I'll say.

CARL: Lots of them. We had a few around here.

BESSIE: ... prices on everything, but no one attended the store, and so these fellows would just come in and want a \$15 hat, they'd mark it down to a \$1.50 --- he'd get a \$1.50 for his hat, instead of the price. But nobody ever paid what the prices were; they'd just mark them to suit themselves.

CARL: Oh yeah. He didn't pay much attention to little details like that.

DICK: I think what's impressed me most about Bill Brown though, you talk to people who knew the other big men who built the county, and they all --- seems like they just had to

step on to somebody, or be tough to get where they wanted. But all the people I've ever talked about Bill Brown no one says a bad word about him. He never stopped on anybody. He helped them if he could.

CARL: Well he was awful good to any --- I've been told by a number of people, that the lack of --- homesteader family that was --- big family of kids, and nothing to buy the groceries with, and Bill would just load their wagon up, tell them to load their wagon up. But he wouldn't give them things like canned peaches, things like that. He'd give them flour, and beans, and salt, and sugar. That's about all he'd let them have. But he'd load them up. And maybe the man would work for him some, or something like that.

JESSIE: Well he was a soft-spoken man.

CARL: Yeah. He had a lot of ideas out --- he dug a lot of ditches, and all that here on the desert, trying to --- All out here south of the Gap, you know, there is 7 or 8 ditches there, that it took a lot of labor to build with horses and fresnos, you know.

DON: Well Cal, out there on the Bend road after you get out past the Gap Ranch, the highway now cuts through quite a levee there, wasn't that one of them dams that old Bill --

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CARL: Yeah, there was a series of those on across the highway there, Don.

DON: Yeah, the highway goes right through, cutting through.

CARL: You see, all was funneling water to Hay Lake. That's where he was trying to get the water.

DON: That was all horse work.

CARL: Oh yeah. This deal out here --- Sheep Lake, that wasn't dirt, that was rock. That had to be blasted there. That rock was blasted there and loaded on fresnos and drug out of there. Quite a bit of it. That must be a half mile long, isn't it Dick, right in that rock?

DICK: Oh, anyhow.

CARL: Yeah. At least that long, maybe longer. Maybe it's almost a mile.

DICK: Yeah.

CARL: But that --- south of the Gap is pretty sandy there, that's good and sandy country there. He didn't have much of a problem with rock there. But that was the whole deal there, takes in Rim Lake, south of there about three miles. There was a big ditch out of it, a head gate in the ditch. It's a lake --- to let the water out after it filled up. And I repeat, you know, there must have been a lot of, quite a lot of pretty good years along there for awhile. Because I haven't seen Sheep Lake full of --- Rim Lake full of water very many times in the last 35, or 40 years.

DON: Oh, I always kind of wondered if --- along the road there, where he had that levee, would that ground hold water. I don't---

CARL: That is a lake bed right behind there Don, that you can't see from the highway. It'll hold water.

DON: Yeah.

CARL: But you know, it's an interesting thing, I've thought about it quite a bit. We spent so much time, and even the Bureau of Land Management, you know, digging water holes in these lake beds to make the water last longer. And some cases those lakebeds will have water all year, you know, stock water and water for game, or whatever. Just by a water hole, where in July they'd --- June and July, and August they'd be dry, years ago. And if Bill Brown ever hit on that idea, he'd of sure had a big time digging water holes, wouldn't he? He never figured that out, you know. Concentrate that water so it didn't get, don't get so warm, and less surface to evaporate. When it turns hot and dry, you know, those lakebeds and that west wind gets to blowing, it just sucks it right out. You know, if it's concentrated in those water holes, it will stay. Stay --- a lot of them don't go dry at all.

JESSIE: Well if they did in a lake bed, will it still hold water, if they ---

CARL: If they don't go below the clay.

JESSIE: Uh huh.

CARL: They should bore it and see how deep the clay is. Sometimes you can get sand, and it won't hold water.

JESSIE: That's what I ---

CARL: It won't drain out very fast. Really, Jessie, but it will drain out, so it will go dry. And they'll seal up even, if you lose the bottom, they'll seal up in a few years again.

DON: He used to tell me --- was on that strychnine and raisin idea, that old Bill got so he didn't care much whether it got mixed or not, he ate it just the same. He was kind of --- built up immune on that strychnine.

WALLY: Jim Mann did the same thing.

CARL: Bureau of Land Management has got a fire crew over here now, you know. I don't know how much it costs the taxpayers a year to keep that crew there, but quite a bit. Bill would start out in --- anytime in the fall when things would burn, and the grass would burn, brush --- with a box of matches and he'd just make a big circles and set fires for weeks, to burn the sagebrush off, so he'd have fresh grass the next spring.

DON: I've heard that ---

CARL: I guess he just burned all this desert to the day he burned --- he just set fires every year, he did that. Burn one area one year, and try to get someplace else the next year. He really burned a lot of country. Anything that would burn, he would set on fire.

DON: Get that old grass off, and the new grass starts the next year there.

CARL: Well, killed the sagebrush Don, controlled the sagebrush. Then of course lightning set fires all the time, and nobody fought them, you know, they'd just burn themselves out.

DICK: They still do.

CARL: Yeah, right. Right, but then you got all these people around, waiting for it to happen.

DICK: All want to claim the credit after they put it out.

CARL: Yeah, put them out.

DON: Buck Miller told me that he broke broncos for Bill Brown there for three years, and never was bucked off. Buck Miller is a kind of a ... man with a horse though.

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DON: One time Harley --- that was when Buck was working for Smiths down there, and Harley had been out there, they'd been out there on the desert riding a little, or something. Smiths had a little sorrel horse there; it was kind of a gentle little fellow. And he brought them into the ranch at the house down there, at our old home place there, and saddled that little sorrel horse up. He was a gentle colt. And Harley got on him, and he bucked him off. And --- "Let me have that son-of-a-bitch," Buck says. And I never saw a man double a horse as fast in my life as he did that horse there. He couldn't get started one way, till Buck would have him going the other.

WALLY: Any other questions anyone want to ask Carl?

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PAULINE: This is lovely; I come out here and have lunch ---

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