

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #199 - Sides A/B

Subject: Alice Johnston

Place: Burn, Oregon

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Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

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CAL MOSLEY: Her dad was a --- her dad, I know her father had emigrated from Sweden. And as I understand it, he was a homesteader, a rancher down there.

JERRY FOSTER: He came from Sweden, and his name was Turner?

CAL: Uh huh.

JERRY: I thought Turner was generally a British name. ...

CAL: Anyway she got her; I know that she went to school down there. I think she even had --- you know, they didn't really have what you would call a high school, but I think that she had, in those days I think she had somebody to kind of tutor her. Or, you know, I mean gave her instruction and she got probably --- she came to Burns for one year of school. The rest of it, the rest of her basic education was just in the Andrews, Fields area. And then after that she went to Boise to business school, in Boise, after that.

JERRY: Then she came to Burns for one year of schooling? Would that have been like one year of high school?

CAL: That's what I assume. You should probably ask her that to be sure. I'm sure it was. But here again, like I say Jerry, I hate to make ---

JERRY: Sure.

CAL: --- a definite statement when I don't really know. She's told me she did come to Burns for one year. I'm sure it would have been high school. But --- And her first job after she came back from business school in Boise --- she went home to Andrews and she went to work for this George Smyth. That's S M Y T H, you know. She's told me that Mr. Smyth and his wife they had a store, a general merchandise store, one in Fields and one in Andrews. If I understood it, she worked in Andrews. They had a general merchandise store and a post office there. She later on got a job over at Sprague River just on the basis of --- they said they hired her over there because of her experience of working in a post office down at Andrews. And she said, you know, all she done was sort a few letters. But anyway, it was something that ---

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Where is Sprague River?

CAL: It's over around Klamath Falls. I got a little bit more information about that when they were over there a little later in the story.

JERRY: You said she worked for George Smyth about a year?

CAL: Well I --- and I didn't say that, I just said that was when she got her first job. I don't know exactly how long it was.

JERRY: Oh, okay.

CAL: I know that she was working --- she worked for George Smyth. And then she and her first husband were married then. Her first husband was named Luther Tudor. L U T H E R, Luther Tudor. And then they were ---

PAULINE: He had a ranch ...

CAL: She said that they --- what she said was that for a brief time they were in the sheep business down there, she and her first husband were. But they decided there must be a better way to try and make a living, and that's when they left Harney County then. And after about a year of being in the sheep business they decided to go on to the Klamath

area, and they went over to Sprague River.

PAULINE: Did she meet him at Klamath then? Or did she ---

CAL: No, she was already married to him.

PAULINE: When they went to Sprague? Okay, okay.

CAL: Yeah. They were married and spent one winter, I think, down in the sheep business. And I think it was down at Andrews. But then they decided about 1923, they left here then and went to the Klamath area and settled --- and she got a job at Sprague River at this general merchandise store. It was a store owned by two gentlemen, Woolfard and Wahn. I guess it was W O O L F A R D. The other fellow's name was W A H N, if I got it correctly. Woolfard and Wahn. Said it was a general merchandise store, and they had a post office and this type of thing, and that's where she got the job, based upon her experience in Andrews.

And she and Luther, they had an apartment that was kind of attached to the --- right there at the store. Kind of a one-bedroom apartment. And anyway, I should back up in my story a little bit; she told me that they had quite a bit of money there. There was quite a few Indian people, it was close to a reservation or something. There was quite a bit of government money, and she said of course people knew this, that they did have quite a bit of money.

And one night, one evening somebody rapped on the door --- I thought this was a very interesting story she told about this --- she opened the door just a little ways, and she opened the door, and she was looking right down the barrel of a pistol. And this fellow came in, forced his way on in. The upshot of the thing was he robbed them and --- you might check this out with her, I think he forced them to go, her husband to go back into the store part and open the safe. Now I'm not sure, don't write that, I'm not positive. But she said of course he robbed them. And then he took them hostage, he took them with him

as he left town.

And she said there they were riding out of town on rough old roads, and this fellow had this pistol in Luther's ribs. And he says, "Be careful," he says, "that gun might go off." And the guy said, "Don't worry about the gun going off, it's not going to go off until I'm ready for it to go off." And they got out --- and he was going along, and this guy must have really been a character, because he told them, he says to her, "You know lady, you're going to have to stop opening that door at night, you know." In other words ---

JERRY: The bandit said that?

CAL: That's what the bandit said to them. And she said, "You're telling me!" Anyway they got nine miles out of town, and he let them out of the car with a warning, you know, don't look back.

JERRY: Oh, they were in a car.

CAL: They was apparently in an old car of some kind, down this real rough road, you know. Then they had to walk back the nine miles. And she said, you know, they weren't hurt, but it just left her a nervous wreck. And she said that's why they ultimately decided to come back to Burns, because she couldn't sleep at night. And she just was really, as you can understand after going through something like this, she said. So 1926, they came back to Harney County.

JERRY: Did she say whether that gun was a pistol or a rifle, or what?

CAL: I understood it to be a pistol.

JERRY: Okay.

CAL: Of course when they came back, she said that they --- there was a store owned by the, by Weinsteins, and it apparently, it was on the --- it was right there where the Home Drug building is now. It was on that side of the street. Ultimately it moved over, I mean the business eventually; by the time of course she bought it and everything they were all

on this side of the street. But if I understand the story correctly, and --- they were where the Home Drug building is now, and it was a combination grocery store --- it was a grocery store and a hardware store. She said one minute you might be boxing groceries, and the next minute, you know, you're sorting out the nails and stuff there, and this type of thing. She said that, about that, a little later on, a year or so later then of course the business really started getting tough as the depression hit, and things started downhill. And she said that they laid off all the men first, ultimately they laid off all the men first, and she was the only person working in the store. I mean other than Mr. Weinstein and his family.

JERRY: How long did she work there?

CAL: Well, all together it would have had to been, Jerry, she didn't say this but, but it had to be ten years ultimately. I mean in the meantime, finally the business went broke. Then the

--- and I don't know how long a period of time there was in there, ultimately he got some financing, got a bank loan some place. I think she said down in Lakeview. But then they, ultimately when they started up in business again, they had moved to the other side of the street, see. They had been on the side where Home Drug is, so they were over there, and it was apparently a pretty good-sized store. And apparently, encompassed everything from about what is now Nyleen's clear to the end of the block.

But she said something about; it was pretty much the same format until the --- the fire what was in 1951, when Ritchie's burnt down, you know, when the store burnt. But she mentions --- from that I took it, that it was a pretty good-sized, took up quite a bit. Well I'm sure it did, because I think Lee Reed owned everything, his father owned everything from there on. He owned a couple of businesses, a couple spaces in there anyway.

JERRY: Would that building be half a block?

CAL: Apparently it was just about what it was ---

JERRY: And she was the only clerk in the store that was half a block?

CAL: Well, now see what she said was, that she was the only clerk, finally the only clerk when they were still on the other side of the street. Now after he got his refinancing and stuff, and they moved the location, I'm not positive, now they might have then hired some additional help.

JERRY: What was Weinstein's first name?

CAL: Well, it was --- the son's name was Archie, I think that ---

PAULINE: It would be easy, so easy just to look back in the --- at the library, just look back at the old Times-Heralds and see.

JERRY: It would be easier to ask what's her name.

PAULINE: Well, that's the easiest way, but ---

JERRY: Okay. All right.

PAULINE: Okay. I mean that's ---

CAL: So I'm not sure, but anyway --- oh, and one thing she covered I thought was kind of interesting was where her store is now, apparently had been previous to this time had been a saloon. So if the people wanted any clothing, any ready to wear clothing or anything, she, Alice would say well come on let's go over to the store, go over to the saloon. She laughed at that story, you know ---

PAULINE: Now say that again, 'cause Marge was talking, and I didn't quite follow it ---

CAL: Okay.

PAULINE: She --- whenever --- what ---

CAL: Apparently they had all those --- these people, Mr. Weinstein had pretty much of a general merchandise type of thing. Apparently had a hardware store, and a grocery store, I think. And --- because it is kind of confusing even to me, you know, just the way that she

has kind of told it to me. But anyway, down where her business is now, and where it has been all these years, used to be a saloon. So if people came into the store, and they wanted some groceries or something like that, then if they said they needed some clothing, Alice would say, well come on, let's go down to the saloon, let's go over to the saloon, see. They called that the saloon, because that is what used to be there.

PAULINE: Oh, okay, okay.

CAL: And she said that's what I used to tell people. If they wanted clothing, they had to come over to the saloon.

JERRY: Was that right next-door to the hardware store where she was?

CAL: Yes. It was apparently all ---

JERRY: So they didn't have a door through the wall?

CAL: Yeah, right. See they were, so they would have to --- And I hope, like I say, this kind of bothers me, because ---

PAULINE: Well, we'll touch base with Alice.

CAL: --- with her, to be sure, and I hope she realizes that I'm just telling you ---

PAULINE: But this gives us some, this will let us ask some real quick questions.

JERRY: Oh, yeah. This will help a lot.

CAL: Okay. Sometimes it kind of scares me because I want to be telling you the truth, but --- as I heard it, or understood it, you know ---

JERRY: And that, that part that --- that department, clothing department that became, that once was the saloon, is the site of where she now has her store.

CAL: That's true. Yes. Because you see it was then on January 10th, 1936, that she purchased the business. She said I had to really scrape to come up with a \$1,000 for a down payment. Her mother, I think, loaned her part of the money for her down payment, she said. And that's how she paid off the business then, as she bought it for a \$1,000

down, and for \$50, and made payments to Mr. Weinstein, \$50 a month.

JERRY: How long?

CAL: Well, until it was paid for, I don't know how long that was. But I ---

JERRY: She bought just the clothing department then?

CAL: I think just, just --- probably just the ladies clothing, I think. Because I think they used to have, you know, men's wear and everything. But she was only interested in the ladies. Now she says, "Cal, you tell everyone that just because I have been in business for 50 years in the same location, doesn't mean I'm the oldest person in town. It just mean that I'm the oldest person, that my business is the oldest business in one location." I thought that was kind of cute. To be sure that --- she wanted to be sure that I made that distinction. And --- one of the things that she told me, and I don't know if you want to put this down or not, but she said that one of the things she is most proudest of is the fact that she was 50 years, has been 50 years in business and she has never had, never had any problem with anybody over a bill, or an account. I mean she --- she just ---

JERRY: She never had a problem with people paying their bills?

CAL: Well, as she put it, over a bill is all. I'm sure that there's times she probably had to write little notes or something to the people on their statements. I can't believe that everybody just paid on the tenth of the month for 50 years. But what she is saying is, she didn't have ---

MARGE McRAE: Is this Chamber members only, or everyone?

...

CAL: --- another thing that, you know, I think that this should be said, that you would think that maybe it was time to slow down, you know, but there is no way that she is interested in that, you know. She says, I have to get ready for my sale on Saturday, and I have to get ready to go to market in Seattle the latter part of this month. But it isn't any slowing

down.

...

JERRY: She is going to this market the first of the month?

CAL: Well it is the latter part of this month.

PAULINE: Latter part of this month. She told me Sunday that she'll have the sale Saturday, she will be here all next week, and then the following week she will be going to market.

CAL: That's pretty much what I have. I hope it has been of some help to you.

PAULINE: Yeah, it helps a lot.

CAL: I think they met and knew each other, you know, back then. But I believe that --- it seems like she went out to Hawaii and they were married out there, I think. And this because I believe Crawford was working for the government, working at Pearl Harbor or something. And --- you can ask her about that. I think that she and Crawford were married in Hawaii. And they --- and this would have been somewhere like '43, '44, '45, so they were married a long time. But of course many years of that time, for about 20 years, Crawford was at sea. But when he left Hawaii ---

MARGE: I don't mean to keep interrupting you, but I was just wondering, I heard you say that she was in the same place for so many years. Uh, you mention her about being in the Welcome Hotel, when she had her shop there? Or, do you remember? Maybe she doesn't want it brought up. But it was --- I was just a little girl, and it was the most beautiful Christmas tree, and she put every icicle on that tree, and it was as high as the ceiling, huge big plate glass window.

CAL: I don't know. Ah ---

MARGE: Maybe she doesn't want to ---

CAL: Well, I think she wouldn't --- she's not trying to hide any-thing, she might have been

there ---

MARGE: --- until it burned.

CAL: I don't know, I don't remember. I always remember her as being where she --- of course I was a little boy.

MARGE: Well, she had the shop down there ---

CAL: Anyway ---

MARGE: Luther Tudor was a gold miner. And he had a necklace that long; I'll never forget it. Put around his tie, he found it up there at Idle City, on the ground he told me. I was real small, but I remember that.

CAL: I remember him mostly as, you know, being a trapper, this type of thing. But he was a real tall, thin guy. They were wearing ---

JERRY: How did he die?

CAL: Huh?

JERRY: How did he die?

CAL: I can't --- I don't know Jerry, I really don't know.

JERRY: Was it a farming accident or something?

CAL: No, it was an illness or something ---

JERRY: Oh, was it?

CAL: --- but I just don't remember. I was pretty small myself. But --- you know, like I say, then after she and Crawford were married, he was a, he was a --- what do you call it, a chief engineer I guess, on a ship, a freighter. Spent I think probably about 20 years after they were married before he retired and came back to Burns, you know, approximately 20 years. I'm not saying that that's ---

JERRY: She married him at Pearl Harbor?

CAL: I think so. Please ask her that. But as I remember it, I'm just doing this from my

own memory now, I think that they were married out there, when Crawford --- oh let's see, it would have been probably in, you know, like maybe in 1945. You just have to find out. I don't know.

...

ALICE JOHNSTON: ... They would come down there and we would load up maybe ten packs ...

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ALICE: --- and they did a big business. They carried --- well then they bought the store, and they had a nice hotel there --- they sold it ... then it burned down, but they had a nice hotel for the country. And in those days, nobody knew anything about TV or anything like that. But the only thing that they had, they had big celebrations like at Denio and Fields, every Fourth of July, different things. And race horses, that was the main thing. We had a man that was quite wealthy; I think came from Sweden, and was raised with my dad. And when he sold out, he came and lived with us. And he was crazy about those racehorses. So, he taught me all about riding racehorses. I was just a little kid. So my dad, of course they would all get down to Andrews, all these ranchers, they were all nice fellows. The only thing they knew was gambling.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ALICE: So this one fellow was there and he was bragging on his horse, and my dad said, "Well, I've got an old plow horse that was" --- he was always kind of witty, and he says, "I'll match you for \$500." So anyway, this Ed Carlson that had lived with us --- and Dad didn't care anything about these horses. He said, "Come down." He says, "Now really Charlie, we can't win that race unless we get Alice out of school," he said, "you've matched the wrong horse." And he said, "We can't beat that horse." ... This is what he said, and he was bragging along, you know. My dad he just ... listening to him ... a match for \$500. So

anyway, they come down, they let the school out; did you ever hear of such a thing?

PAULINE: Well ...

ALICE: And it was about ... the racetrack ... about as far from here to about that building. And we all went down there, and Marjorie Shull, you know ... they was the Smyth's and Johnny Smyth run the store here, well that was his parents. And she run the store after her folks died, the one at Andrews.

But anyway, I tell the first money I ever made, at the market, everybody gets together and they get to talking about when the first money --- Well I said, well I said, "If you want to believe me, but the first money I ever made I got \$20 for riding a race horse." I said, "Dad didn't want to give it to me," but I said, "This Swede ---" He said, "By Jesus, Charlie, we got to give Alice \$20." And they went to San Francisco's World's Fair. And all these Swedes that had come from Sweden come to our house. So, some of them went ... They chaperoned us, my sister and I went. I was about 12 years old, and I felt so big.

The first dress I ever could get in a store to buy, it was in --- I can't think of one of the big stores on Market Street. And my sister was scared to death, she said, "Oh, we can't go down on Market Street, we must not do that. "Oh no," I said, "come on." I says, "I'm going to buy me a dress with some of this money I have been saving. I'd saved the \$20 ---

PAULINE: Saved the \$20 and you bought your first dress in a store on Market Street.

ALICE: Well, you wouldn't pay \$20 today. You know, when I came in here, the dresses were selling --- and these ranchers, if they got one dress a year they were lucky. And you know what dresses sold for, \$5.88 and \$9.88. And Sue Dalton up here that owns this --- this place up here, where the beer place is, she was telling me the other day, I was in to see about it, about what dresses sold for in here, and she says, "Alice, I went down to Penney's and wanted to go to a party, and I got a dress one time for \$3.95, and it looked

as good as some of the ones that --- you know, ones that we sold for \$9.88. ... these dresses now would go for \$25 or \$30. But they thought that was a lot of money, \$9.88.

PAULINE: Well, it was.

ALICE: Well they were so proud these ranchers, they didn't have no money, and if they got one a year they were lucky. But then from down there, why we had sheep and it was that cold winter, and it got 40 below, and we had these old sheep. My husband and I, we had my dad's ranch leased. Dad would always run cattle and grain. He would sell grain clear over to McDermitt, Nevada. You know how far that would be. And you know how they'd come, with great big four, maybe four or six horses with a wagon. And they would load up the grain and ---

JERRY: Was it bulk, or in bags?

ALICE: What?

JERRY: Was it bulk or in bags?

ALICE: We had some in both. But we had a great big granary there, and we get it filled up and we'd get so much grain, that we'd have to go and take maybe part of it in ... and then we'd have a great big lane there and we'd have to ---

PAULINE: Was it just called the Turner Ranch, or did it have another name?

ALICE: No, just Turner Ranch. His brother had it for a while. Blair's have it now.

PAULINE: Okay, now I know where, about where it is. Was he from Sweden? Was your dad from Sweden?

ALICE: Yes. He came when he was 18 years old.

PAULINE: He had a partner that came with him?

ALICE: No, nobody came over with him. But his brother was making real good money and ... and he had a store there. He finally sold it, and went to Minneapolis and made a lot of money there. And then he went to Pasadena and retired. But I never did see him

because he died. I only spent one winter down there ... I only stayed one winter.

But it's kind of funny, we had been in this sheep business, which was ... all foolish, because these poor old sheep they couldn't take --- we got a lot of people that year to buy old sheep, and they thought they were going to make a lot of money on these old sheep, but they didn't ... I think they give them a \$1.50 a piece. But you could sell the hides for a \$1.50 so they came out just even ---

When we left here, why we, I still worked for them over there at Sprague River. And they went over there on the Indian Reservation; I don't know whether you know where that is ---

PAULINE: I'm not sure.

ALICE: --- well there is big pieces in the paper now, where they are getting millions of dollars off of this timber, you know, they sold. Those Indians were what they called the Annex, and those people he worked for, Woolfard and Wahn, they found out that I knew a little about post office. All I knew was, I was just a kid, was to put the letters in the boxes. You know, that was all I knew. But anyway ... we were working and my husband was driving the logging --- that was the job he took first, I think working in the hay field, and I did the cooking. That was the first job I had. He had heard it was booming over at Klamath Falls, but when you get over there, they want to know well, have you did any logging, are you a so and so, are you a buckner.

Of course he lived on the --- my husband run cattle, but he didn't know nothing about logging. But we had heard that it was booming over there and we wanted to get over there. But anyway, we got stopped at Sprague River on this side, and that was on the Indian Reservation. And every town, we was getting \$1,500 a month, not a month, I think it was in quarters. And then they had more money to spend; they didn't get what Indians were getting.

Well these Indians here, some of them dress pretty good now, but they had everything ... They go buy new cars, and wreck them in about a week or so. But they sold everything, even to caskets. But they came over and asked me if I wanted a job, they heard I knew something about post offices, and they were sick and tired of it. Maybe I'd been making money all year by a kerosene light. We had these old bell lights --- in those days they didn't know any-thing about electricity --- maybe about 10 o'clock at night. If you didn't need anything about 5 o'clock, you were paid no overtime, you work until maybe 10. And I had been making money orders, with a kerosene light at 10 o'clock at night. And I learned that post office, not trying to be smart, but I didn't know a thing.

And the boss went to Klamath Falls, and his wife was expecting a baby. There was two of them, and they just treated us like one of the family. And then they didn't know nothing about us, whether we were crooks or what. They'd have us go live in their houses when they'd go down. Maybe their wives would stay a couple of weeks in those days, in Klamath Falls, if they were expecting babies. But anyhow, they just called me up, the bosses, the main one, to take care of the post office, is one of them. But he would take care of the post office when ...

But they sold everything you could think of, grain, gas, and then these caskets. And they'd have a big celebration, and they would come from all over, the Indians did, and would keep them for two or three days. They had big dinners, and everything you can think of. They had homes out around, away ---

JERRY: Your store sold caskets?

ALICE: Yes.

JERRY: Well, isn't that strange?

ALICE: Yeah. They had caskets there because they had to have them there for these Indians, had these big celebrations. And they'd --- celebrations, would come from

Chiloquin, Klamath Falls, and all over the country. And then they'd have that for maybe two or three days, you know, it was a really big celebration. And they sold medicine.

JERRY: Was there a lot of these Indians always die during these celebrations, because they drank too much, or something?

ALICE: No. It wasn't that, but --- after the funeral, I mean they --- they'd keep them maybe a couple of days. They'd have big dinners, like in one big ---

Remember the scent of the oilcloth? I can remember measuring off one time, twelve of them so they could put them on tables. Oh, I thought that was a job. And --- but --- they carried --- and then they carried ... yardage, they carried groceries, and ... and then maybe go out and pump gas. So I learned all kinds --- it was a good experience, I guess. Well, they took in so much money. One night I saw a car with its lights right on watching us, and we had to go across the street to get water --- And we had a little apartment off of the store. And I heard some noise, and then I looked and here was the boss standing there. He said he wasn't scared, but he was as white as a sheet. And I just got the door open, and I bet we didn't open it an inch. There was a gun against my nose.

JERRY: Was it a pistol?

ALICE: Yes! And the other door was open that went to where the safe was. ... that came from the apartment. And my husband had gone to bed, but he knew something was wrong. When he got into the room he said, "You wouldn't take the last --- sure I've got a little bit in my pocket, but you wouldn't really take the last cent a man had." And they said, "No, we don't want that." But they got everything out of that safe, but they never touched the post office money. Not a bit --- but --- Well, they was supposed to pay off see, that's what they came --- part of the way --- they had it all in cash. And then we'd have there, and then they'd have down to Chiloquin, the other side of Chiloquin, I can't think, that was

their headquarters. Anyway they would have --- after the money was all give out, and distributed and sent, you know, to the different places. They said, "Where's that Indian money?" They wanted that. Well they decided that they would take us with them.

JERRY: How many guys were there?

ALICE: Just two.

JERRY: Uh huh.

ALICE: And they said --- I said, "Are you going to kill us?" First, one of them riding along, he said to me, "You're a brave woman." I was just shaking like that. But I said, "What are you going to do to us now?" And of course ... across the street was a hotel, and a pool hall, and there was lots of people, mill people, there was a mill right there. And then there were all these Indians too. But nobody knew anything about it, it was at night, you know. They had picked the boss up, he was walking home, he had a nice home ... And they picked him up and brought him back, and they got him to open the door. Well then they took us out 12 miles, and turned us loose, and said, "Don't you look back." They said, "Just go right straight down that road." And we walked. But after that we could have stayed there and really have made some ... in those days, why \$200 was a lot of money we thought.

JERRY: Was that how much they stole?

ALICE: No. But that was what we got paid, I said.

JERRY: Oh.

ALICE: Oh, I don't know how much they stole. But I was separating the mail one day, and here was a big envelope. And I opened it up and here was all these checks, and it had L. T. Somebody had knew my husband, and I said it might have been from Burns, but nobody --- but he had worked with a lot of fellows there at this mill, he was hauling logs, you know. Then they didn't have like they have down here with chains, you had to

pull them up to a horse to get them into the mill. And that's what he was having to do. They'd have --- everything was horses in those days, you know. And --- but, there was a lot of people around there, and only one store, so they ---

But I couldn't stand it. I went on all that summer, and I just couldn't stand it, and one night they give us a gun to put beside the bed, and I wouldn't even sleep in that room. I'd sleep out in the front room, and my husband --- in a little bed about that wide, because I was scared. I didn't want to get down there near that safe. And --- so anyway, a woman comes in the door, and just kept knocking and didn't answer, and my husband said now if you don't answer --- he thought somebody had come back to rob us. He said, "I'm going to shoot through this door." And he was the first one --- He told the boss he says, "I have never handled a gun in my life." He says, "I don't know nothing about guns." And this other time we were riding along and they ... the gun right in my husband's ribs. And my husband says, "Don't --- you better be careful, it is pretty rough along here, that gun might go off. He said, "Don't worry, it won't go off unless I want it to." But he said, "Don't you keep a gun there?" He said, "No." Well he said, "From now on you'd better keep a gun." Can you imagine a robber telling him that. But anyway, I couldn't stand it any longer, and then that's when I came over and went to work for Mr. Weinstein.

JERRY: What was his first name? Mr. Weinstein's?

PAULINE: Archie.

ALICE: Well, Archie was the boy, but what ... And I raised up a \$1,000, and that was a lot of money to have to try to buy this store. And they started a ladies store ... and ... What? ... just like my daughter, she'd always tell me. And --- but --- when I bought the place why, why, Weinsteins had an office back here, and this was Jim Constance, at one time, men's store. And then he went broke, and they had to take it over. Well they put men in here. Then they should have never put any ladies, he didn't know anything about

... selling summer things in the fall. So he only had it from July to January, and he decided he had better sell it to me.

Well he owed me a little bit of money, and between my mother and the little I had, why we raked up a \$1,000. And Pat Donegan, the attorney back here ... one of the smartest one I would say in the country. But anyway, he said, "Alice," he said, "you know, \$75 is a lot of money right now to put into it." "Oh no," I said, "I was just ---" "You have to learn the hard way, don't you?" "Oh no," I said, "\$75 I can pay that." But here I was going to be selling dresses for \$5.88, \$7.00, \$9.88, or \$7.88, along that, you know.

And anyway, he --- Weinstein, he had built this store in here, they went broke. I worked over across the street first for them, where the drug store is now, but that burnt down. Then we moved over here, they had groceries over here and hardware. And I helped take all that hardware and put it ... out back, we put it back there. And put ladies and men's wear, mostly men's wear, into that side. And then lady Ritchie, after Ritchie had that, it burned down. And --- but it was an older building. We had just a stove that, a little round stove that you had to put wood in, and it was cold most of the time, and I had chilblains.

And anyway, I guess finally ... Archie Weinstein sent me a birthday card ... And my husband passed away ... I had been getting a lot of cards, and I thought, well that's a sympathy card, and here it was my birthday card. So I sent him an obituary out of your paper, and he wrote me the nicest letter. But he helped me an awful lot ...

And I remember one time he had taken \$250 out of his pocket and handed it to my husband, and that was in the days when you go out and buy a coyote fur --- can you imagine. And he would make a dollar a piece on each one, and he'd make quite a bit. He'd go down to Nevada, and Archie thought we didn't have much money. ... And he didn't have only himself, and now he's ...

JERRY: How old were you when you bought this store?

ALICE: Well, I was --- see I was born in 1903, and that was '36, so I'd have been 32 then.

JERRY: Thirty-two.

ALICE: But I ...

JERRY: Quite a bit of experience by then ---

ALICE: Yeah, but I wanted to tell you something. You find out you can work for people --- and I've talked to other people, the same way, at market. We have a big market in Seattle there, four hundred and some. But I've talked to a lot of people, and you think you know the business, but when you get on your own it's a different proposition. It's pretty hard, I mean, you get into a bind and everything ---

Well, two days after my husband was buried, we had to come up here and make \$5,000 out in checks that had to be paid. If you don't pay by the tenth of the month, you lose that 8 percent discount ---

SIDE B

... Now the best one that I deal with is Jantzen. I just paid them yesterday, \$2,000. I don't even give it to the mailman; I take it down to the post office. And, but --- he made out five thousand dollars in checks for me, and then wasn't but a little while one of those factories --- well, they're terrible. Last year they claimed, you know, that we hadn't paid something, and we'd have to go get our check and show. And they never write you back that they made a mistake. Some of them will say it's a computer error. But, I went and wrote over the check that she had already wrote, because they wrote and said that I was - -- I don't know what the deal was --- didn't have no sense to look in the checkbook, of \$304. And you know, they never paid me back until last Saturday. They just kept putting off, and that was November the 15th.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

JERRY: No interest, I'll bet.

ALICE: No interest! And all the telephone calls. One fellow said, and I didn't know whether to call the place that --- it was for purses, and I didn't know --- I kept calling them, and they said no use to call us because the store is the one that you paid to. And seemed like if you want to buy a bunch of clothes, why you'd go out, and if my credit was good, you'd borrow the money like from these places, you know, that financed them. You'd borrow the money, and then they'd go make the clothes. And now there are so many, getting so many, hard up, are getting more of those all the time.

And I just hate them because --- I was talking to somebody yesterday, I don't know whether it was Millie next door, or some-body was in the business. They said, you know they are terrible. They do something and ---

JERRY: When you don't pay the company direct anymore, most of them you pay their finance company.

ALICE: Yeah, you can't pay the company, because they have already borrowed the money see, to make whatever they want to make. They get the money before they maybe make you up the dress, or whatever they are making for you.

PAULINE: How many years did you work for Weinsteins?

ALICE: Well, let's see now. They went broke, and then they turned around and got --- I mean leave it to the Jews, they got plenty to build this here afterwards and started in again. But I was working for them, let's see, '26, '28, and then I went back again later, '29. Maybe about 5 years, I'd judge to say that altogether. I don't know, because I worked different.

JERRY: Cal said this place used to be a saloon before you ---

ALICE: Yeah, I tell the girls over there at the restaurant to come over to the saloon once

in awhile, why don't you. (Laughter) Yeah, that was, it was an old building that was long before Weinstein's had it though. And I don't know what was in here then, but I don't know if anything was in here. But I've got a picture of Main Street that Georgie Lillard from Drewsey had enlarged, it's about that big, and about that big.

So I said to my husband ... has some awful nice pictures when he was on the ship for 20 years, you know, as an engineer. Then he made two trips around the world. And I was silly enough that I wouldn't meet him somewhere. I did meet him in Japan and Hawaii, but he wanted me to come to ... But you know, up until not long before he died, he still knew --- he was a great reader, and he said he bet he read a thousand --- you should see the books he's got down there, you'd believe it. That he read a thousand books while he was on the ship. And he could tell you the populations of all the countries.

PAULINE: Was he from here originally, or did you ---

ALICE: California.

PAULINE: He was from California. Did you meet him when you had gone to market?

ALICE: No, he came up here --- with Frank Kueny, a big sheep man, was a --- had a brother that lived right close to my husband. They were good friends. And he came up with them, and that's the way I had met him. Then he came up and I got acquainted with him then.

JERRY: Cal said that your first husband died not too long after you got this store.

ALICE: Well, let's see, he didn't die until '41, that wouldn't have been too long afterwards. And then I was married in '45.

JERRY: Uh huh.

ALICE: And Cal probably didn't, probably --- I don't know. Cal used to go with my niece. They used to be down to my house.

JERRY: Oh, is that right.

ALICE: And we got to be quite --- we've always been great friends, both Cal and I have. And when he had the shoe store --- he kept, nobody can fit me in shoes but Nordstrom's in Portland. And they had an awful time. And I said, these shoes, I don't know, I just keep them for dress, the patents. I said, "Haven't you some nice shoes I can wear up to Seattle?" He said, "No." And one fellow that sends me up shoes, and we're quite good friends, this is Jake from Nordstrom's. And he'd say, "No use Alice, you just got to wear these Selby's." I'd say, "I want something nice to wear up there." I said, "It's market week." I said, "Because up there nearly all of them wear skirts." We stay at the Washington Athletic Club. We have a friend, and we use his car, and we stay there. And you can't go in the dining room without you got on a dress. My husband went into one place there --- Huh?

CHRISTINE HODGES: You want to put this up now?

ALICE: He's through with the pictures, aren't you?

JERRY: Yeah.

ALICE: Uh huh.

CHRISTINE: Well, I can do it, Jerry can help me. Finish your ---

ALICE: ... Have you got some paper?

CHRISTINE: Yeah, right here.

ALICE: You know about where it goes there anyway.

PAULINE: Well, one of the things that I have always been told, I don't know whether you told me or someone else told me, but one of the reasons that you have been so successful here is that you really know the people that you are serving. And so when you go to market, you look for clothes that you know the people here will like to wear. Is that --

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ALICE: Well, I do that quite a bit --- uh huh. I do that now; like in those half size dresses.

I had a woman from Wyoming --- I've sold, I just sold this summer, a girl clear from Finland, and France. But I had a woman from Wyoming, and she said she went around, you know, the stores got so they don't keep but all the small sizes. And she had been over to Bend, she had been every-where, and she was just sick. She was going to a wedding, and her daughter said, "You know, she is the dressy one in the family." And she said, "I just haven't any clothes to wear." Says they'd go in, and they said, "We don't have no call for big sizes." Well I said, "Well I have calls every day." So they told me, the lady from San Francisco said take these half sizes, see they make those clear up to 22 1/2. And I get those for women that I know, you know, around here. And they don't have no waistline, and now she says we're selling them to the large women. Before they were short waisted on most people, you know.

And --- you probably don't --- aren't interested in dresses. But I had this Joann --- do you know Joann and Nick that had the

PAULINE: Oh yes, the Vidondo's.

ALICE: Well we got to --- when she came here she didn't know any-body. And her and I right away, got --- she started buying and we got to be close friends. She stuck \$40 in my door without --- anybody could have taken it --- in an envelope, the day of our funeral. Because she couldn't come to the funeral, besides sending flowers. But at Christmas, she has given me --- but she'd take me home every night when my husband was sick. And that was year's back. This last time we had my niece, and she's one of the best. Do you know Bunny's little girl, Christie?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ALICE: That girl, we took him one day to the hospital, they took him up there on account of me, because they thought I was going to collapse I guess, or something. Because I

was staying up and wasn't sleeping. We just stayed one night; they never did nothing for him. But Christie was doing something for him every minute. Mrs. Holly told me, she's the best woman that she'd ever had work for her.

PAULINE: I'll bet.

ALICE: But her husband makes big money, he has this diesel business. She does all the bookwork. But she came down yesterday, and she was doing those tags, and she had put on two hundred tags here. And we did --- I said you can try it out if you want to Christie, but you don't have to put them on. And she said, "I think I know how to put them on." She didn't know if 200 was enough, and it wasn't and we had to go buy some more.

PAULINE: Well you've pretty much run your business the same way. You have a sale in January and a sale in July.

ALICE: Yeah, I don't have in-between sales.

PAULINE: And you don't have any in-between sales.

ALICE: No.

PAULINE: And everybody in town is here for your sales.

ALICE: Yeah, they usually do. I don't know --- of course now then they're getting so that these places around town have one about every week, you know. But I don't know --- but I know most of the women have said that, I still have them old timers, you know, that still say they ---

I was going to say about this Joann, and she, her uncle has left her everything over there. They were from over at Prairie, you know. He's worth over a million, and he's never been married. He's left her everything. But they can't sell this carpet business. So she goes --- they have --- they're calling her all the time, and she is going back and forth. But she buys in here. Sometimes she's bought \$300 or \$400 just for her mother, she wears half sizes. So when I go to the market week, her mother was wearing 22 1/2, and

now she'd got thin and those 22 1/2's are too big. But when I go to market week, I pick out dresses that I know that she can wear. She likes dark things, and they're Italian people, Swiss-Italian. But they are the finest family, they are. And for my husband, they all sent flowers, and I don't hardly know them over there, you know. But I had one party; lone Robins sent me a \$100. Can you imagine?

PAULINE: That's wonderful.

ALICE: I was going to send it back to her.

PAULINE: That would hurt her feelings to do that.

ALICE: And I called her up, and I said, "Why did you send me that \$100?" I said --- you know what she said --- I gave, you know, it was \$250 is what it cost me, but I didn't care about that, but I had \$50 down at the Ye Olde Castle. And I had forgotten some people that I feel bad about --- you know, you couldn't remember everybody.

PAULINE: No.

ALICE: After the funeral, we had a buffet. And I wanted to have a lot of my customers, you know. But we got a hundred cards. We got a hundred cards from people, sympathy cards.

PAULINE: Do you want to have a picture of that sign, and this sign over here you said?

ALICE: Yeah. I think, what you call him, would kind of like to have that.

PAULINE: Yeah. Let me take those.

ALICE: And then I told Mrs. --- I don't know about whether they wanted any, but they made that other one, and it wasn't cheap, that one ... a \$175 sign. But I can use that sign, all I have to do is peel that gold off. But he said he'd leave that gold on for a while.

PAULINE: I'd leave it on all this year.

ALICE: Would you leave it on that long?

PAULINE: Sure, I'd leave it on all year long.

CHRISTINE: Sure. We don't have anything else to put on it.

ALICE: Well, he said ... use it plain.

CHRISTINE: Yeah, but I think I'm like Pauline, I think you ought to leave it on for all this year.

ALICE: It's still 50 years.

CHRISTINE: Sure. Yeah.

PAULINE: It's 50 years, Alice.

ALICE: Well, I'll leave it awhile ...

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