

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #203 - Sides A/B

Subject: Crested Wheat Seeding

Place: Haines Ranch - Range - Paul Friedrichsen's Office

Date: June 5, 1979

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

MARCUS HAINES: You are going to tape me and my story here?

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Uh huh.

MARCUS: They'll be in here the 17th, it's Father's Day, there's going to be about 30 of them. Charlie Otley called me this morning and told me about it and he had planned on having this Bill Snyder with them. I don't know if you know who Bill Snyder is or not. He used to be the director of the state fish and wildlife --- the state game commission. He's an executive authority on habitat for wildlife. And he went in and --- to Alaska and helped locate the pipeline in relation to wildlife habitat. So we've been trying to get him in here to ask an opinion on this, this valley here some time. And so he called Charlie here a while back and he said we'll be in here, he said the 16th of June. And so when Charlie called me this morning, he just got the word, he isn't coming. But there's about 30 of the rest of them are coming, and they're, according to the plan now, they're going to spend the night out here in the Lava Beds, out here in the rattlesnakes. (Laughter) Hopefully we'll get to see them the next day and show them around a little bit. I told Charlie Otley, I said, "I think we better go ahead and celebrate Father's Day someplace else, it would probably do more good." Anyway, he thinks maybe there's a fellow by the name of Morris that he knows about, that will be in the bunch, and if he is why he can talk to him a little bit, and so on and so forth.

And so he's getting Don Opie over here Friday morning and he's coming here. So we're going to go up the valley and lay some plans where to take these people, and what we want to show them, then just go out here ... parts, you know, why you won't get too much done. So that's the plans for Father's Day now. (Laughter)

PAUL FRIEDRICKSEN: That's your Father's Day celebration.

MARCUS: You bet. Probably a wasted effort on our part, but ---

PAUL: Well, I don't know if it's ever wasted. The problem is you feel like you're swimming up stream against the current, you know.

MARCUS: Well everything we have done, everything we've attempted here, we've come out on the short end of the stick.

PAUL: Yeah.

MARCUS: As you know, Paul, you worked with us and we haven't gained one jump ---

PAUL: Still, upset over that --- over McVickers. I --- that really --- I guess I was naive. I should have listened to you Marcus. I remember you shaking your head when I mentioned --- I thought we could get some help out of them. (Laughter)

MARCUS: No, they all dab with the same stick, Paul. (Laughter)

PAUL: I guess they get you riled up.

MARCUS: They want to stay with the crowd; they want to stay with the crowd. They --- I heard one the other day and I would like to find out a little bit more about it, but it's --- it must be pretty authentic. The forest service officials, now just how far up the line they were, I can't tell you this, but they came in here and made a tour of the refuge with Joe (Mazzoni) and Ditto and maybe some more of the hatchet men, I don't know. But one fellow just lit right into them, and said well this is the terriblest job of managing a resource that I have ever seen.

PAUL: Well is, he's a range --- he's a range con on the --- Huh, I heard about it.

MARCUS: Yeah.

PAUL: He's a range conservationist I believe on the Snow Mountain, he might be on the Malheur, I don't know just which. Well he must be the Malheur --- I think he took Bud Flint's place, the fellow that took Bud Flint's place.

MARCUS: Oh, oh.

PAUL: I think that's the fellow.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

PAUL: I'll try to think of his name.

MARCUS: Well Bud was over on the Malheur.

PAUL: He was on the Malheur.

MARCUS: Yes, that's right.

PAUL: I think this is the fellow that took Bud Flint's place.

MARCUS: Well, I heard his name too.

PAUL: But he's very far up the line, in other words, as far as the powers that be.

MARCUS: Well according to Ditto, he tried to explain to him what they're trying to do, and he said he wouldn't even stop long enough to let him to explain. (Laughter) He really poured it to them.

PAUL: Yeah.

MARCUS: But I have, I had George Bentz's diary. Now George came here in 1912, I believe, to trap rats, and spent the rest of his life here. And in about 1918, he was appointed game warden, as such. They called them protectors in those days. They didn't have, didn't know for sure just what they were doing here, so they just called them protectors. And George had that position up until the refuge was purchased here from the --- from Blitzen Valley. And in the spring of 1935, I have his diary of all the birds that were in, came in here in the spring, and then the nesting, the depredation by coyotes on the

geese out here on Malheur Lake where these ... people know nothing about. And I think that I'll just have that typed out, typed up and make some copies and just pass it out to these people.

PAUL: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Now 1931 was probably one of the driest years that's on record here, and then 1934 was just about as bad. And according to the book here, "Harney County and Its Range Lands," by Brimlow, he says there was 7,000 acres of grain planted on Malheur Lake in 1934. Well here this says, this, here's this dry year, and then we had a good wet winter and the lake starts filling up again. But here's all these birds after a complete drought that George writes about. You never tell anybody anything about it, it's just --- you got to know why --- it's pretty hard to dispute, you know. ... (Phone rings) gave them to me, and he has the records of the grain that was grown by tenant farmers up here in Blitzen Valley, and it amounted to tons and tons, and hundreds and hundreds of tons of grain on just their share, and the crop they got up there during that time.

PAUL: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Well here was all this feed up there, here was all this feed down here, Malheur Lake was full of sago pondweed. People farmed, hayed all this area back through here. It all started stopping.

PAUL: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And now what have we got down here? Just a big ---

PAUL: Tule patch ---

MARCUS: Tule patch that a bird couldn't get into if he tried to. And if people wants to take a realistic look, I believe you might make them think a little anyway ---

PAUL: Yeah.

MARCUS: --- by some data of that kind. I have some pictures of your dad riding a mower

machine here in the summer of 1935, mowing hay right down here on the lake where you couldn't, you couldn't get through a foot now. And Standley and Henry they had the old Farmall with a trail mower on it. And your dad rode the trail mower. You've seen the pictures.

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Yeah. I've got them.

MARCUS: Okay, I got them for you. And there is so much of that stuff if people were interested at all, might put two and two together, I don't know. I took; I took a group of senior citizens from Malheur County on a tour here last week. They came in about a week ago yesterday morning, Monday morning, and had dinner at the Senior Citizen's Center. They had a program for them and all, and they came out here to the Center and got located and had to be back by 6 o'clock for supper. So we took a short tour around here, and took them to the museum. And the next morning I gave them a full tour of the valley, we went clear to Frenchglen, of course the "P" Ranch and back down and through and into the Diamond Valley, into the lava beds, and back of the craters, and back on up through Diamond Valley, and then to Happy Valley, and around to the Round Barn. And on that trip, after we left the Ratfield Pond up here, we saw a few birds here, you could have counted them all on one hand, Paul, that we saw on this trip that I'm telling you about. And the old brooding ponds there that I knew so well, that you couldn't set another duck on this time of year, or birds I mean, not one bird, not one was on that pond. And I don't know how they're going to explain this. I'll probably have Mazzoni along with us, that'll have all these statistics and all about all this stuff, but ---

PAUL: Well it would be good to throw this other at him and see what ---

MARCUS: You bet, you bet. Sure will.

PAUL: I ---

PAULINE: Well it's a frustrating thing, and I ---

MARCUS: Well the only geese that we saw on the whole trip, I brought them into the house here that evening, to tell Edna to come in, to follow me down to the end of the lane there, and I would jump out and they could go on up and spend the night. And luckily, this whole string --- there have been more added since, some of these little fellows, but this was the only broods of anything that they saw on that whole trip, was right here in our dooryard. Come up and brought that bus in here, and turned around, there was 40 of them on the trip. Turned the bus around here, and if they hadn't of seen those birds in our dooryard up here, they wouldn't have seen a brood. I'll take it back, they did see a brood of four cygnets up here for these trumpeter swans up here, they did see that. But ---

PAULINE: Well are we going to talk about Sagebrush Springs this morning?

PAUL: Yeah.

PAULINE: 'Cause we could spend the rest of the day ---

PAUL: Well you know it would be good ---

PAULINE: --- very interesting too.

PAUL: It would be another interesting one to do.

PAULINE: Well I'm ---

PAUL: --- is one on, you know, the effects of agriculture production, or grain production, or something like that. Kind of a little history of it, and all. I guess we could say on wildlife, but a guy just might interject what it does with wildlife. But we could do kind of one on the grain production in the Harney Basin, and a little bit of the hazards and risks, and some of these things. But I guess we better talk about the sagebrush this morning. Where do you want to start, Pauline?

PAULINE: Well why don't we start with what your field condition was when you started thinking about this project, and what you did, and what happened.

MARCUS: On my field, okay. Well this --- my first attempt here, Pauline, was to get

crested wheat started on the field over here near the Junction of 205, and --- it ought to pick up alright from there, hadn't it?

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: 300 to 360 acres in the field was fenced, and it was old brush. And back in the early, about the late, about 1960 this Websterii, I think a spider, you know what they call him Paul?

PAUL: It's Aroga Websterii, which was a moth. It's a moth, and defoliated a lot of sagebrush from Northern California and all the way into Southeastern Oregon. And it killed some pretty big patches of sagebrush really, in a lot of the country.

MARCUS: Well they killed practically all the sagebrush in this field except for 60 acres that was a new growth brush. Now they wouldn't touch a new growth of sagebrush, they went around that. So in the, in the fall of 1964 I got a rangeland drill and put behind my old D-4 Cat, and I put a railroad iron out on the yoke of the dozer blade, and just to break this brush over, it was dead. I didn't want to pile it up, but I didn't want it standing either, I just run that blade a little ways off the ground, just enough to uproot the brush. And I seeded all of that. And then the next spring I sprayed this 60 acres, and that fall I seeded it. So that made the 360 acres that's in that field there.

PAUL: Marcus, what kind of use and production were you getting prior to the time that the moth hit and you seeded this? Prior to '64, we'll put it that way.

MARCUS: Well I put a well down out there in 1953, and prior to that there was no water on the place. There was a homestead there, but the well had caved in, and I drilled a well 295 feet deep right to that one there to the corner, and put in a pumping plant. And I had a few saddle horses, and kid's horses around here, and I put them in there that summer, and the spring, and by summer I had to take them out, they cleaned out what there was in that field. There was little patches of ryegrass, but most part there wasn't anything. But --

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PAUL: So in essence you didn't get much use at all out of there?

MARCUS: No, no use at all out of it. And then I didn't get much use out of it for probably three years afterwards. It looked like it was a complete loss there. The first year it came up real good, and we had a series of these dry cold winds, and real strong, and just, the sand just cut those plants off, blowing. This is a sandy area there. But in a year or so later, why the plants started popping up, and I didn't get a bit of use out of that field until probably '67 or '68. But I stayed off of it until I was sure that it was established. Then there is 228 acres that is hooked onto the east end of that I trade for, traded for, and I sprayed that brush in 1960 --- spring of 1966, and got a real good kill. And then I seeded that in 1968, the fall of 1968. And then in about '75 I believe, we'll say '75, won't be far off, I sprayed the 360 acres plus about 60 acres of this other 228 acres for rabbit brush. Got an excellent kill on it there.

PAULINE: This came in after you killed all the sagebrush and ---

MARCUS: Yes, it came in afterwards.

PAULINE: One thing I think we've omitted to on here, we're talking about seeding, but what did you seed?

MARCUS: What did we seed?

PAULINE: What did you seed?

MARCUS: Crested wheat, five pounds to the acre.

PAULINE: Okay. You know it, and I know it, but ---

MARCUS: Five pounds to the acre.

PAULINE: Okay, you know it and I know it, but ---

MARCUS: And part of it was Fairway, and part of it was Nordan.

PAUL: Nordan.



MARCUS: Nordan.

PAUL: Just ... can you tell the different now, Marcus? Or as far as the use ---

MARCUS: No, no, can't tell a bit of difference in it.

PAUL: So in essence then, we're saying that prior to, prior to the time of any treatment on that whole bunch of land that you had in there, you were, you were getting, how many AUM's would you say you were getting off of there, Marcus?

MARCUS: Oh, golly Paul, I don't, I think probably 50, 75 AUM's would have --- just to clean that field slick.

PAUL: Yeah, okay. I think we need, we should kind of document, have a little bit to compare with before and after. And now this will vary depending on the sight, you know, depend on the under-story.

MARCUS: Sure.

PAUL: Some of these, we figure on an increase of three times on a seeding, some will be as much as five times of forage, and in these cases where you had virtually no understory at all, you almost went from nothing to whatever you have.

MARCUS: Yes, yes.

PAUL: I think this is in Marcus' case, what we're talking about, and really in that Eagles Nest Seeding, you're almost talking about the same thing.

MARCUS: You bet, there wasn't anything in there at all.

PAUL: It was ---

PAULINE: There was no, there was just sagebrush, and rabbitbrush, and greasewood. Was there---

MARCUS: No greasewood. No, no greasewood in this, except a few patches maybe up on this --- you know that plant that we looked at Paul, on time?

PAUL: Yeah, milkweed.

MARCUS: Was that what it was?

PAUL: You know that endangered species one or ---

MARCUS: No, no.

PAUL: Oh.

MARCUS: No, we made a trip up on ---

PAUL: Oh, yeah.

MARCUS: --- and there was a greasewood type of plant there that the spray didn't kill.

PAUL: Oh yeah, okay. Yeah.

MARCUS: And I don't know what it was. Did you ever get it identified? I never thought any more about it. I don't suppose you did either.

PAUL: Well, I didn't. I remember though, we went through there

---

MARCUS: Yeah, that was ---

PAUL: I can't remember whether that was ---

MARCUS: There was a few plants around up in there and ---

PAUL: Winter saltbrush or winter fat, there's all different shrub types ---

MARCUS: There's a little, it was a different type of plant than you had seen before, and me too.

PAUL: ... Yeah.

MARCUS: And it's still up there.

PAUL: Hopsage or something like that, I didn't ---

MARCUS: Yeah, but other than that it was just sagebrush, and rabbitbrush.

PAULINE: How many cows do you put in there now, for how long?

MARCUS: Well we'd have to do a little figuring on this. Would you like to take this year?

You want to back up a little, or what --- how would you like to go at it here, Paul?

PAUL: Well do we have two years, could we have the last two years then Marcus?

MARCUS: Yes.

PAUL: How many AUM's a year you getting off of that field?

MARCUS: I can tell you just exactly.

PAUL: Okay.

MARCUS: Well on the 11th of April in 1977, I put 72 cows and bulls in the Blackie place.

That's the field we're talking about.

PAUL: How many was that, Marcus?

MARCUS: 72.

PAUL: 72.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Now this is the first piece we talked about, the one that's ---

MARCUS: Well the fields are together.

PAULINE: The fields are all together.

MARCUS: Yeah, the fields are all together.

PAUL: That was April 11th?

MARCUS: Yes, April 11th. I took these 72 head out on the 23rd of April and went to the desert with them.

PAUL: '77 was the dry year, wasn't it?

MARCUS: Uh huh. That would be a good one.

PAUL: Yeah, that would be good to ---

PAULINE: It was the driest year on record in the Pacific Northwest in the history of ---

MARCUS: On May the 11th I moved a 118 head of cattle to the Blackie Field.

PAULINE: Do you spell that B L A C K I E ?

MARCUS: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARCUS: Hans Bang was this fellow's name. He was a painter and a gambler, and whatnot. And they always called him Blackie. He was real dark complected, and looked like maybe a buck nigger might have chased his mother and might have caught her.

PAUL: (Laughter)

MARCUS: So that's where he got his name. (Laughter) Blackie. And on the 21st ---

PAULINE: That's May 21st.

MARCUS: --- of May, we took a 125 head of cattle out of that field and went to the desert with them.

PAULINE: Wait a minute, we had some calves ---

MARCUS: What?

PAUL: You put a 118 in ---

MARCUS: These are all, these are all cattle. We put in a 118 head, and ---

PAUL: And took out a 125.

MARCUS: Yeah. I had some cattle here that --- evidently --- or I had left in the field, I don't know which it was.

PAUL: So 118 went out. We'll put the 118 out.

MARCUS: Yeah, okay.

PAUL: 'Cause the others must have come from home here then.

MARCUS: Yeah.

PAUL: Yeah. All right.

MARCUS: And --- or maybe --- I'll tell you what happened there, I bet you I left some cows and calves in there from the 72 that went out. That's what it was.

PAUL: Some stayed in.

MARCUS: Yeah, some stayed in.

PAUL: So the 125 --- there must have been --- let's get this down till we get the AUM's.

MARCUS: Yeah.

PAUL: There must have been, there must have been 7, there must have been 7 that stayed in, Marcus.

MARCUS: Yeah, 7 cows and calves. Uh huh.

PAUL: So it would have been instead of 72 out ---

PAULINE: It would be 65.

PAUL: It would be 65 out.

MARCUS: Yeah, okay.

PAUL: We'll do it that way.

MARCUS: And they stayed together an additional, AUM's ---

PAUL: Yeah, you got ---

MARCUS: Now, we'll come up here to July.

PAUL: All right.

MARCUS: We brought those cattle in then, and put them on the, on the --- where'd I see it here, on the 6th of July. No, this isn't pertinent to what we're ---

PAUL: All right.

MARCUS: We brought these cattle off the desert; they dried out, and put them in the Big Bird Seeding.

PAUL: Oh, I see.

MARCUS: Yeah. So this --- those cattle stayed in there then, they come down and started laying in the corner, and I started taking them out and putting them in the Blackie Field.

PAUL: Okay, 7-31.

PAULINE: Okay, July 31st.

MARCUS: Put 40 head of cattle in the Blackie Field from the Eagles Nest Seeding. The next day, the next day we put in 31 head.

PAUL: That would be 8 more. 31 head in.

MARCUS: And on the 2nd, we put 11 head in.

PAUL: 8-2, 11 head in.

MARCUS: And on the 4th, we put 30 head in.

PAUL: 8-4, 30 head in.

MARCUS: Well I see here on the 6th, I put 47 head of cattle in from the lane. Now we put these 47 head of cattle in this field here, so now there is 47 head of cattle out of this bunch that is accounted for here, that won't be in this final count because I put --- they came right in the field --- lane here, and I turned them in this field. Had a count see --- so we can kind of keep them in mind. Yeah, I put in another 30 head of cattle from the lane here on the 13th. And all the cattle off the Big Bird Seeding on the 15th.

Let's see --- have to stop and reminisce here just a little bit. We were haying down here on the refuge, we start the 10th, and went down there to go to work, and here they were putting in the Cato Dam. And I said here, helped get the rest of the cattle off the Eagles Nest Seeding, finally got the baler working again. Convinced Joe Mazzoni not to put in the Cato Dam. (Laughter) He was all cut and ... and washed the whole thing off into the lake, and I said, "What's the idea Joe?" Well he said, "We want to get this water down to 6,500 acres here so we can spray or whatever it was."

PAUL: Rotenone ---

MARCUS: Rotenone the lake out here. And I said, "Well what do you --- the river is practically dry, Joe." And I said, "The spring runs about 12 second feet of water here. Now what, how much effect is that going to have on the 15,000 acres --- that's what ---

how much effect is that going to have on Malheur Lake?" Well he studied awhile, and he said, "Well I guess it wouldn't have much." And I said, "I'm sure you're right about that." I said, "The evaporation and all is going to be far more than that. You'd be --- see this was the middle of August here," I said, "you're going to be spraying here before long," and I said, "all you're doing is ruining the hay that I have already cut here. And you're going to put Henrietta Venator out of business. You're going to put the hay right down into the water, right down across --- where we looked at the ---"

PAUL: Yes ...

MARCUS: She hadn't cut hay down in there yet. He'd go to bat and put her out of business. Now that's the type of management that we have over here. There's just that much thought put into everything that they do over here.

PAUL: Did any of those last bunch that you took out of the Eagles Nest go into the Blackie Field, or did they all come home here right away?

MARCUS: Well I haven't got a thing on that. Now I'll have to --- I think I had practically all of our cattle out of there. ... How many have we accounted for?

PAUL: Okay, we accounted for, for 71, 82, and 30, is a 112. A 112 head, Marcus, in the Blackie Field.

MARCUS: Yeah, and then we had ---

PAUL: And then over here we had 65 and 125, so that's 190 head.

MARCUS: Well we have just about accounted for them, haven't we?

PAUL: Yeah.

MARCUS: I think there was maybe a yearling or two in this, in that field when we rode. But those old cows of ours just came down and laid in that corner, and we just went up there and got them out of the field, and took them down and put them in the Blackie Field.

PAUL: Uh huh. And the rest of them came home, so ---

MARCUS: The rest of them came home. Now ---

PAUL: Now we need to know when these went out of the Blackie Field, I guess. They probably all came out at one time, didn't they?

MARCUS: Yeah, on the 22nd of August, let the cattle out of the Blackie Field.

PAULINE: Do you have a number there of how many you took out?

MARCUS: Yes, Paul has that.

PAUL: Okay, it would be a 112 head. Okay, that takes care of the use in there in '77. If we could get '78, that would be great.

MARCUS: Yeah, we got it too, here.

PAUL: Because that would be the difference between a good year and a bad year.

MARCUS: Yes.

PAUL: That '77 would be a bad year.

MARCUS: Yes, and then see what is left over there.

PAUL: Yes. But like this year, you can see what's left.

MARCUS: Yeah. And --- but then of course I have been real careful and not hit that field too hard. I never ---

PAUL: You'll still gather cattle into there, won't you Marcus?

MARCUS: Yes. Yeah, I'll put those cattle --- everything is up on the Big Bird Seeding, and when the same thing is going to happen here when that thing gets real dry, they're going to come down and lay in that corner, and I'll have to ---

PAUL: Put them in there.

MARCUS: Yeah. Now we're back up here to 1978 here.

PAULINE: It's a good water year.

MARCUS: You did want ---

PAUL: Yeah, we want '78.



MARCUS: On April the 7th, I moved a 123 head of cows and yearlings to the Blackie Field.

PAUL: 123 head in.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

PAUL: Those were all cows and calves, weren't they?

MARCUS: Yeah, it says they ---

PAUL: Yeah.

MARCUS: --- mostly.

PAULINE: When you figure AUM's, do you count for calves?

PAUL: No, we just figure 123 head, yeah.

PAULINE: You just figure cows.

PAUL: Yeah. On small calves, we don't.

MARCUS: Then on the 10th, they were only in there three days, but 121 head of cattle in the Eagles Nest Seeding. Okay, we're in there for a month, then we went on to the desert. Now ---

PAUL: So they were only in the Blackie Field for three days.

MARCUS: Yeah, but we left 3 head in there.

PAUL: Okay, 120 head out.

MARCUS: 2 head, there was 121.

PAUL: Okay.

MARCUS: Now we find these cattle that came off of the Big Bird Seeding here, when was that? They went right directly onto the desert. April the 23rd, get out of there before that. No ---

PAULINE: You saved my life with this coffee; I only had two cups for breakfast. I thought that was about four short.

MARCUS: I put a 118 head of cattle in the Blackie Field on the 29th of April.

PAUL: 4-29, 118 head in.

MARCUS: And then we took those cattle out on May the 5th. There was 4 or 5 head left in the field there. I think Jackie Church has some cattle, but we'll just have to guess at that. Now we'll have to go up here to --- starting around the 1st of July here and see what this --- is taking place. We had to ... on in with those cattle. July we put 32 head of cattle in the Blackie Field.

PAULINE: July 29.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

PAULINE: 32 head?

MARCUS: 32 head. On the 4th of August we put 15 head of cattle in the Blackie Field. On the 13th, we put 30 head of cattle in, 17th; we put 15 head of cattle in. On the 19th, we put 40 head of cattle in.

PAUL: 18th was what, Pauline, what do you have, 31?

PAULINE: Well maybe I missed something, I've got ---

MARCUS: No.

PAULINE: --- 14 on the 4th, 30 on the 13th, 15 on the 17th, and 40 on the 19th.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's right. None on the 18th, Paul.

PAUL: Okay.

MARCUS: 22nd put in 30 head. Rained all night that day, that night, that day --- (Laughter) Rained all night and in the early morning. Worked in the office. Deanne Yergo, Paul Friedrichsen, and Steve Bessie were here in the morning. You remember that?

PAUL: Yep.

MARCUS: And put in 30 head of cattle, and so forth --- Well I said here on the 23rd of

August I put in a few cattle. I don't know how many a few was, here. But we must have --  
- we'd have ridden the desert, and so then we must be ---

PAULINE: Well if you put down how many you took out, or if you took them all out at once, then you'll catch those.

MARCUS: I think that was the balance of the cattle. We put them all in out here, so if you can come up with that count there, why you'll know what I ---

PAUL: Well we got --- 30 ---

MARCUS: What have we got there?

PAUL: 62, 30 is 92, 92 --- 40 is 132. 162 head I get.

MARCUS: Well it would make you the balance there because they were all in maybe within ---

PAULINE: I came up with 161. Now what did I do wrong? Was there 14 on August 4th?

PAUL: I got 15 on August 4th.

PAULINE: That counts for my ---

PAUL: Okay now, there were 162, and how many did you have --- looks like you had 200 and ---

MARCUS: Well let's see what did we get ---

PAUL: You had a 100 ---

MARCUS: We had a 121, and 118, so that is what it is.

PAUL: Yeah, that's 9, that's 239.

MARCUS: Yeah, and we took these cattle out of the Blackie Field on --- all of them on the 3rd of September.

PAUL: 9-3, all out. Now will you put the balance from 162 to 239 in on the 23rd Marcus, you think?

MARCUS: Yeah, I think that must be, Paul. I ---

PAUL: Okay.

MARCUS: I can't find anything else that says different.

PAUL: You didn't bring any of them right home, in other words, they all went to the Blackie Field.

MARCUS: They all went to the Blackie Field, yeah.

PAUL: Well let's see, that would be ---

PAULINE: 77 head.

PAUL: 77 head.

MARCUS: Yeah.

PAUL: Yeah, and 9-3 they all went out.

MARCUS: All right.

PAUL: Now we get here to '78 ---

MARCUS: Now we get this year, we change books here.

PAUL: Okay.

MARCUS: '79, I took a 108 head of cattle to the Blackie Field.

PAUL: On what date, Marcus?

MARCUS: The 3rd of April.

PAULINE: April 3rd, 1979.

PAUL: 108 head in.

MARCUS: Rex Taylor put a 100 head in the same day.

PAUL: Okay, and we'll put a 100 head in, it doesn't matter whose they were.

MARCUS: And --- yeah. Just so we won't get our count mixed --- well, we won't be back with them anyway, so it won't matter too much. Then let's see, when did I --- and we took, gathered the cattle in the Blackie Field and put them on the Eagles Nest Seeding in --- that was on the 11th of April.

PAUL: 4-11, that would be all 208 out, huh?

MARCUS: Uh huh. Yeah, get over here in May --- Rex Taylor put 254 head of cattle in this field on the 21st of April.

PAUL: 4-21, how many Marcus?

MARCUS: 254 head.

PAUL: 254 head in. All right.

MARCUS: And he took them out on the 23rd of April.

PAUL: Okay. All right.

MARCUS: And there's 4 head of cows and calves over there in the field now that I hauled from here. They've been in there, why I don't know just --- some of them were two weeks, and the other one a week, and --- something like that. But there's 4 head left. And that's the story on the field out there, at the present time.

PAULINE: Now you can figure out the AUM's. Because I think that's beyond my mental capacity.

PAUL: Well I'm working on that. You know, I'm getting the days down.

PAULINE: I raised a mathematician, but I certainly don't know where she got it. She didn't get it ---

MARCUS: She didn't get it from her mother, huh?

PAULINE: Nope.

MARCUS: AUM's are a little tricky.

PAULINE: In 1977 there were ---

PAUL: 161 AUM's.

PAULINE: And in 1978.

PAUL: 184 AUM's.

PAULINE: Okay. And in 1960, there were virtually no AUM's.

MARCUS: Yeah, prior to that to --- I mean later than that, she was --- didn't do the seeding till '64, and there was probably three years anyway before we --- Well '66 when Tailors came up here we walked out to that spring --- and did some spraying around, and we could find very few plants.

PAUL: Did --- in other words now Marcus, when we're talking, when we're talking say --- let's say 1960 for instance, how did you use --- did you put any cattle in there at all before you went out on the desert?

MARCUS: No.

PAUL: No.

MARCUS: No, didn't put any cattle in there at all.

PAUL: So --- and you didn't gather them there?

MARCUS: No.

PAUL: So you weren't ---

MARCUS: There was nothing there.

PAUL: Okay.

MARCUS: Put them in ---

PAUL: Okay, so that's what we need to have down.

PAULINE: That's ---

PAUL: --- have down. I think you had originally there was 50 to 75 AUM's, but he really wasn't using it in that way.

MARCUS: Well I think after those horses were in there that year, we hit the field pretty hard, and there was nothing after that.

PAUL: Yeah.

MARCUS: Hit it too hard, and just --- a horse will really take things out.

PAUL: Oh yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: You know. And no, there wouldn't have been, well there wasn't feed enough there to take care of 2 or 3 head of horses there for very long.

PAUL: Yeah, okay.

PAULINE: Now you mentioned, you mentioned a well. This is just a stock well?

MARCUS: Stock well, yes.

PAULINE: So you don't sprinkle irrigate it or ---

MARCUS: No.

PAULINE: --- or irrigate it, it just comes from the natural water from winter runoff?

MARCUS: Yes.

PAULINE: Does it flood in the spring or ---

MARCUS: No, it can't flood, it's a sandy, sandy soil and although we had a runoff this year in January when the ground was frozen up and washed things out around over there pretty good. But normally water just disappears. There's a hardpan out there under that sand, down oh a foot and a half, such a matter. You can't hardly dig a posthole in it. And so apparently it holds, if there's any moisture, it holds it pretty good there in that sand.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Because it is proven this --- it's a good seeding due to some reason or another, you know.

PAULINE: Uh huh. And you don't go out and fertilize it or do anything else to it at this point. Just ---

MARCUS: No. No, there isn't anything done on it. I have planned along since I have been using it to stay out of there during the month of June, anyway. And so that's ---

PAUL: Get re-growth.

MARCUS: Yeah, get the re-growth, and set the seed there. And the field is getting better every year. There is no question about that.

PAUL: But it does provide a lot of flexibility as far as your operation here is concerned too.

MARCUS: Well it's the key to the operation now, really. Probably one of the best investments I ever made, in the cattle business. It's the earliest feed that we can have, and we could turn out --- you know, proper management, you can take these cattle out there before the 1st of April if you really wanted to. And --- get the feed up until the 10th of April when we go to the desert.

PAUL: You could probably get, you could probably get 10 days of, let them feed early and still have the same amount of re-growth that you had ---

MARCUS: Oh sure, that's right. Yes, I'm sure that's right.

PAUL: I think you'll see when we're out there Pauline, what, you know, what early use --- you can get some pictures --- but the early use you wouldn't hardly know there was anything in there, really. When you take a look at it --- we drove by it on the way

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MARCUS: We have --- see I fenced off that gravel pit there, and we got a fine comparison there. There was a cow or two in there last night when we came home. The gates open. But there hasn't been anything in there. Those cows have been in there a time or two, but not enough to even touch the feed in there. We can look that over a little bit, and you've got the comparison right along the fence, you see. And of course this is near water which makes a, quite a difference too. These cattle graze in and graze back out. And that will be the last; least pasture of grass that you'll find will be right in that area when you get back. You can drive across the field and take a look at that. And I'll show you where we put the Nordan, Nordan seed, and where we put the Fairway too.

SIDE B



PAULINE: Can you tell any difference in wildlife use of, for instance your field before you killed the sagebrush and put in the crested wheat now? Do you notice any ---

MARCUS: Well yes, you notice considerable difference, considerable difference. Because there is deer and antelope both here, particularly in the fall of the year when this crested wheat greens up, that we have never had in there before. You bet, they like this crested wheat just like the cattle do. And they like green feed, and that's what will happen here in the fall of the year if you get some fall rains, this will green up and makes excellent feed here for the wildlife. Paul is going to make this yet, isn't he?

PAULINE: He's going to save me a job; all I'll have to do is close it now.

PAUL: And it's out of ignorance that they say they want this instead of the other. Because really as far as even wildlife is concerned, when you have a mono-type of sagebrush, which is the biggest mono-type we got in the county, the best thing to do is get it broken up with some of these seedings. You're surely not going to break, you know, we are not talking about a project that would change the six million acres of rangeland we got, or the five million acres of rangeland we got all from sage to all crested wheat grass. But we're talking about having blocks within those big areas that are of the better soils and developing those for these seedings. And to me, everything benefits from it.

MARCUS: Well, you know, it seems to me that if I were coming out here to come study wildlife and all I would enjoy getting out of the brush here and out on these seedings where I could see the ground ahead of me a little more. See what is taking place. I don't know if you like this story that John tells about this Sue Foster, you know, seeing the lizards up here on the crested wheat seeding, up the valley here. And come back and tells Ferguson about it. "Why," he said, "you didn't see any lizards up there." "Well," she said, "I did too." "Oh no, lizards don't get out on those crested wheat seedings." "Well I saw lizards up there." "No, no, you're not, you didn't see lizards up there." And just

backed her right down. And she quit the class. That's the way I understood it. She could do a little thinking for herself.

PAUL: Well the other thing is that there is a lot of people that would enjoy seeing those cattle on, you know, a lot of people come out to the west, and to the range country and they want to see cattle grazing on the rangeland.

MARCUS: Sure, you bet.

PAUL: And it's not a matter that they want to come out here and just lay in the dust and the sagebrush, you know.

PAULINE: The bands of sheep used to be a big attraction. The sheep are off the Steens now, completely, there's no sheep on the Steens now at all, and that used to be one of the ---

MARCUS: Sure, and you think of the west, you think of the livestock. That's people coming out in this country here, I think would be disappointed if they didn't see cattle out on these ranges. No, I think these folks are pretty narrow minded on this environmental thing. And another thing, I don't suppose there is one in the whole group who could tell you how big an acre is. They got no idea how much ground is in an acre. After all, you want to lay so many acres aside for the wilderness area, you ought to have a little idea of what you are talking about, the size of an acre. But I bet you they don't.

PAUL: You know when they are using the emotions of people saying that they are saving this land from the devastation of commercial interests, and you know, they are using those kind of tactics to get people's opinion swung their way, saying it's the last chance to lock this up and save it in its natural state.

PAULINE: Well it isn't in its natural state.

PAUL: What it ---

PAULINE: If it were in its natural state, I'd say yeah, more to it. But it isn't in its natural

state.

PAUL: You know spray ... these are, we discussed here the spray seeding projects, or range seedings converting land that does not have a grass understory to something that has, you know, productive value as far as forage is concerned. There is quite a bit of land in the county that's also spray released for the brushes sprayed, competition is removed for grasses and forbes to be released and you're using native vegetation then.

PAULINE: Yeah.

PAUL: And in those cases, we're talking generally about two to threefold increase in forage production on those, on those areas. So a lot would depend on, you know, how effective the job was done as far as killing of brush. You do get a re-invasion in many instances of the brush back into those areas. And, you know, sometimes it's in ten years, sometimes it's in fifteen, sometimes it's in twenty. So it isn't a, it isn't a method that completely, a 100 percent kills all the brush by any means on these places. But it does provide quite a bit of forage, increase of forage production for quite a long period of time.

PAULINE: Well I ---

PAUL: You might want to consider interjecting in here, is that not only the seedings, but the water developments have provided a better displacement of cattle on the range, and it has provided wildlife water for many species of animals, that there was no water for them before.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

PAUL: And water is crucial to any form of animal, whether it be wildlife or domestic. So I think, you know, when we're looking at this range deal --- And another thing that we might want to interject in there is the soil protection capabilities of these seedings, compared with the, you know, just sagebrush out there. In other words the amount of actual ground cover has increased, I don't know what the percentage would be, but it's increased

considerably.

PAULINE: Well I had thought of this too, and Chad (Bacon) brought out the watershed ---

PAUL: Uh huh, the values.

PAULINE: --- the values. And I thought perhaps somewhere in there that we could work in what would have happened, for instance, to Marcus' field had he not seeded ---

PAUL: Well his field is kind of, is fairly flat, and you wouldn't get a lot of wind or water erosion ---

PAULINE: You don't think ---

PAUL: --- in there. But some of that other that they had, you know, had enough slope that you might get soil movement. Say we had a year where we got a lot of snow on frozen ground or some-thing, and then when it melted off, you get these runoffs.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

PAUL: And sometimes even under the best conditions you move a lot of soil.

PAULINE: I would have thought that out there in that Blackie Field, without any sagebrush to hold it or anything else, that that would just blow a dune just like it does across the road.

PAUL: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well he mentioned --- let's see, some of the things he said here --- that there was a first time in over, in a 100 years that there was no cattle on the native range during the plant growing period, and that the first year that its been completely rested. And then he put a --- goes into the dramatic increase in, in already just in the first year of the native grass.

PAUL: Then somewhere in summing this up, we need to kind of bring some thoughts together on the value of, what the value of these range improvements mean for the county, not only from an economic standpoint, but from really a resource standpoint.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

PAUL: And I don't know how to best state that, or how we want to do that, in that grass or forage is a renewable resource. And many of these areas, the only way of converting any of this through, no to a product that is suitable for humans, is through livestock grazing.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

PAUL: And that if managed properly, you know, that the benefits are there for wildlife and for man, and for the econ --- you know, the economy of our resource base, community that we have here in Harney County.

PAULINE: Oh, here's one of the quotes I got from Chad, "That this system of grazing has allowed us to maintain an unrestricted space appearance for the area, provide a grazing management system that favors all the users in the native range." And ---

PAUL: Yeah, and that's another, you know, another thing that can be thrown in, Pauline, on these seedings, you know. There is a lot of people that are against seedings. And one of the things that should maybe be brought out that seedings do provide flexibility for improvement of those, of those range areas that are going to be kept in their native state.

PAULINE: And Chad pointed out too that when you zero in just on the seeding, you miss the whole point, because he said you lose track of the big picture that we're putting on a grazing system where we're using 9,000 acres. But the rest of the native range habitat is where the real impact is great as far as the wildlife is concerned. You have to look at the whole picture. They seeded 9,000 acres, and they've got a 163,000 that are left.

PAUL: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Native state.

PAUL: I would like to see --- I think from a livestock carrying capacity, 9,000 acres will carry as many livestock as the 163,000.

PAULINE: Well that's undoubtedly ---

PAUL: That's what they are doing.

PAULINE: --- that's what they are doing.

PAUL: And I think this point should be made. That this should be made plain so everybody can see it.

PAULINE: Yeah.

PAUL: That this 9,000 acres crested what grass seeding is providing enough forage, or the same amount of forage as the 163,000 acre ---

PAULINE: --- forage --- will next year, when they rest the crested wheat.

PAUL: Yes, that's right.

PAULINE: Yeah.

PAUL: And that point should be made. That --- I'm not so sure, personally I don't feel the 9,000, 163,000 is the right percentage of ---

PAULINE: Well ---

PAUL: --- of seeded to not seeded.

PAULINE: --- there's about a 20 percent of that he said wasn't used by livestock because there is no water source.

PAUL: Yeah, well ---

PAULINE: So it really isn't a 163,000 acres, that ---

PAUL: But why isn't there water? Well a lot of this 9,000 acres didn't have a water source either.

PAULINE: No, no.

PAUL: --- before they developed it.

PAULINE: They drilled the well. I think he said --- oh, I've got it here. He put in, they put in, they drilled two wells, drilled two wells and put in 15 miles of pipeline, and 20 stock water troughs. And there was no water in that area at all before.

PAUL: See, in this you're not even looking at 10 percent. My feeling is we should almost be looking at a third of maybe developed range improvements, or maybe 25 percent, or something, of seeded, developed areas to compare it to maybe stuff that's left, and then manage around that. Where they're looking at less, in this particular case it's less than 10 percent.

PAULINE: Yeah.

PAUL: It's about 5 percent. But be that as it may, I think it would be a good point to zero in on that, that this is in fact what is taking place.

PAULINE: ... ten additional water sources on the unseeded, on the range.

PAUL: This sentence here, Pauline, needs to be changed or reworded or something.

PAULINE: Yeah, this, I didn't want --- that won't be ---

PAUL: Okay, all right.

PAULINE: Okay. What's a better way to say that, just forage, production?

PAUL: Evidence documents this point shows benefit ---

PAULINE: --- by increased forage production.

PAUL: Yeah, for both.

PAULINE: Yeah.

PAUL: Increased forage production and availability for both domestic animals and wildlife. And that might be a good place to interject in, you know, water developments also have assisted in

--- livestock distribution and available water for wildlife, all wildlife species, or something along that line.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Yeah, I like that. The other thing too that I need to call Chad back about is the cost sharing on that. I'm sure there was cost sharing of some kind on that.

PAUL: Well I don't know on this if there was as much as they used to be in the past. It

used to be that the permittees did an awful lot of the fencing. For instance the BLM would supply the fences, and the permittees would supply the labor. BLM would supply the seeds, and in some cases maybe the permittee would do the seeding, or some of the seeding, so there was a lot of that kind of trade-offs going back and forth. I don't know whether they do quite as much on capital outlay items. There is a lot of maintenance. In other words, fence maintenance and some of these things, maintaining these water holes, and water development, a lot of that is placed on the responsibility of the permittee. But you might check with Chad and see what his thoughts are on that.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well if there was any I sure want to put it in there.

PAUL: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah. And then I had, I got a hold of this thing out there the other day, the response of understory vegetation in big mountain, big sagebrush habitat, after spray release. And I don't know, it's pretty technical stuff; I don't know whether any of it will work in or not.

PAUL: Well I don't --- you know really, this --- well my feeling was on this article was not to write it in a manner that would be for technical people, or even for ranchers so much, but it would be a general information article showing what range improvements and proper range management can mean for, you know, just for --- I'd call it good land stewardship.

PAULINE: Yeah.

PAUL: In other words, I don't like to see these areas, they talk about native range, well I'm not sure that sagebrush was that native. You know, I'm sure it was here, but not in the extent that it is on some of these sites. And my feeling is that we're not doing a very good job of land management, just letting that stuff go the way some of those, some of those areas are.



PAULINE: Yeah.

PAUL: So this is really, intent of this, that all, it seems to me that all the wildlife that the livestock man and the community all benefit from good sound range improvement practices. And we need to kind of tell this story; really that's what we're kind of after.

PAULINE: Well the other point Chad made was that the important point is that prior to treatment the land was completely sterile. There wasn't much of anything in there.

PAUL: Yeah. And I'm not so sure we shouldn't state that there are thousands of acres in Southeastern Oregon, we might go so far as to say there are millions of acres in Southeastern Oregon, thousands would probably be better ---

PAULINE: Well ---

PAUL: --- that are in that same status, you know.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

PAUL: And that we're really being, you know, losing some opportunities by not following these kind of examples.

PAULINE: But Chad brought up the thing about the --- what does the NRC, NRDC stand for?

PAUL: National --- okay, that was that suit that ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

PAUL: --- was brought stating that, to the fact that the BLM had to have an environmental impact statement before they kind of turn a finger on any stuff right now. In other words, until they have their EIS, their environmental impact statements, and their allotment management plans prepared, they can't go in and start manipulating.

PAULINE: No, he brought this up, because the East Warm Springs allotment was the last one that was started. They were far enough along when this decision was made that they were allowed to go ahead with it. And that it has taken all this time now to prepare the

Drewsey allotment.

PAUL: Uh huh.

PAULINE: The environment impact statement, and if it all goes well, why they'll be able to start this fall on that. And I thought it would be, if it works out to plug that in there that this time has been lost preparing the environmental impact statement, the Warm Springs allotment, where it proves that this is the way to go, and that ---

PAUL: Well ---

PAULINE: --- that ---

PAUL: You could say that, if we could find out what the cost of preparing the environmental impact statement was at Drewsey ---

PAULINE: Uh huh. I knew --- I found out what it cost in time.

PAUL: You could do the whole re-vegetation projects in the Burns District for what that one EIS cost.

PAULINE: They started planning in 1975, and the environmental impact statement will be completed in '79. Had they planted crested wheat in '75 as planned, you know, they would be reaping the benefit of it today.

PAUL: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Oh, they anticipate funding for 1980, in October of 1980. So it'll be another year.

PAUL: Well that's just my --- I'm sure on some of this they have to do some determination on what sites are going to be treated, and which ones aren't all right. But you can sure waste a lot of time ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

PAUL: --- in paper work, and not accomplishing anything in the field. That, that --- and I'm sure that they'll, that most of those who have the direct responsibility for land

management positions will wholeheartedly agree with that. If they had the funds, if they had the money to put into the ground, what the EIS cost, they would really not be much reason to write an EIS. In other words they never were getting that kind of funding to do what they needed to do on the ground itself, between water developments, and fencing, livestock control, and seedings, and spray jobs.

PAULINE: Yeah.

PAUL: And spray release jobs. So ---

PAULINE: Okay, I think the economic impact is --- now let's see there is 7,970 AUM's on that ---

PAUL: Well every AUM of grazing is probably worth somewhere, depends on the dollar figure Pauline, that cattle are at the time. But ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

PAUL: But I would say in the neighborhood of \$35 to \$40 of gross ag income from an AUM of grazing. Now you have to watch out how that is worded, because people might --

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PAULINE: Well you got into that, at that Lions Club meeting.

PAUL: Yeah, people have the feeling that that means that an AUM is worth, a guy could afford to pay a lot more for an AUM of grazing, if they're only paying \$3, and it's worth \$40 of gross ag income to them. And I'm using that figure as just what it means to the economy, not ---

PAULINE: Not to the ---

PAUL: --- not to benefit necessarily of the individual himself.

PAULINE: You got into that at that Lions Club meeting.

PAUL: Yeah. Now we might, we might turn it around and say that so many pounds of beef are produced each year, in other words if a cow and a calf goes out, and that calf

goes out at what, a 100 pounds, and comes back in at --- or goes out at 200 pounds and comes back in at 400 pounds, you've produced in essence 200 pounds of beef while that calf was out. Now, you know, a lot of that is nursing the cow and so on, but I mean that is

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PAULINE: Well the thing that ---

PAUL: If a pound of beef is worth 60 cents, you see that's ---

PAULINE: The thing I think that might be more helpful than that, I've always had problems with the AUM's in trying to convert that to numbers of livestock. You have to ---

PAUL: Well an AUM is one animal for one month.

PAULINE: One animal for one month, right. And so if they're out there three months, you divide the figure by three to get the number of animals ---

PAUL: Or if he's out there for five months, which most of them are, you divide it by five.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well let's see, these go out in the middle of, April 10th, and they come back --- yeah, they're out there five months. Middle of October, don't they?

PAUL: So you're looking at somewhere in the vicinity of every AUM being worth \$25, roughly of gross ag income.

PAULINE: Well let me play around with that. I'm like you though too, a little bit nervous about ---

PAUL: How that's used.

PAULINE: I've heard that it isn't always ... it can really be misconstrued. I don't want to give anybody any ammunition that--- so --- Okay. Well I think we're pretty well on the right track then. By the time I get all this stuff that Chad told me, you know, and it'll follow pretty much the same format. I'm debating about whether to put that first or Marcus' first. But his project started first, it's been in longer.

PAUL: Uh huh, Marcus' has.

PAULINE: Yeah.

PAUL: Yeah.

PAULINE: And so --- Well are you going to be in the office on Monday?

PAUL: Yeah.

PAULINE: Okay.

PAUL: I think so. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday I should be here.

PAULINE: Okay. Well I'll ---

PAUL: Thursday and Friday I will not be here.

PAULINE: Okay. I'll try to hit for, you know, pretty well completed copy then Monday morning.

PAUL: Okay.

PAULINE: And --- before we go from there.

PAUL: Good enough. Thank you.

PAULINE: I was really excited about ---

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