

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #206 - Side A

Subject: Victor Cleveland

Place: Burns, Oregon

Date: 1979

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

MARCUS HAINES: ... First we will talk about these Howe's that --- wants to know about.

VICTOR CLEVELAND: Well, is that thing on now?

MARCUS: Yes.

VICTOR: Well, I'll tell you about them Howe's now. Dad bought that old home place from George Howe in 1908. And we was there for a month, and then he lacked a little money, quite a little of having enough to pay for all of it, so he went to Nevada, and worked at Little Creek for the PLS Company there for two years, him and Mother. They come back in 1910. We stayed there until I left in '69. Of course the folks passed away before that. And, but --- anyway, when we got the ranch from George Howe, why the post office was there at that time.

MARCUS: That was in the house that you bought?

VICTOR: Yeah, in the house. Yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: Mrs. Howe was the postmaster. And Beryl Moffet was driving stage from Drewsey with a team up there at that time. And she'd eat dinner there to the ranch, and then turn around and go back to Drewsey. And that was in 1908. And then in 1909, well the house burnt down, so they had to --- but they saved the post office part of it. So they

moved it down to Ed Howe's down there. It's part of the Bentz place now, the Acton Ranch. Yeah, there's a --- right there below where the old schoolhouse used to be. I don't know you was ever there or not?

MARCUS: Yeah, at the forks of the road there.

VICTOR: Yeah, at the forks of the road.

MARCUS: Yeah, you call that Wolf Creek?

VICTOR: Yeah, that was Wolf Creek schoolhouse.

MARCUS: Yes, yeah, I know where that's at.

VICTOR: It's down about a quarter, half a mile, down in the flat there in that Bentz field. Why Ed Howe, he had a homestead there. So that's where they took the post office to then.

MARCUS: Well, had he moved down there after he sold to your dad? And was he living -
--

VICTOR: No, no George Howe he moved over to what we call the Moss place, over there back of Larsen, back in there in the cove, back in there. But, but now I say the Moss place, we called it that. Deeded George Howe's other ranch, he had it in connection with the other place up home, till he moved over there then after we --- after the house burned down, you see.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: Well, he had to move over there.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: So he moved in there. Then he stayed there, oh until about 1916. So then he had a sickness in his family and he lost his two daughters and his wife. He moved to Ontario though, it was during this time. And so then, when he --- after they had passed away, why then he went up into Washington where his oldest daughter lived. And I guess

he died there. She was married to Dave Craddock. Bessie --- Bessie Howe.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh, uh huh.

VICTOR: And they had two children. And they --- Bessie is still alive, and the kids live up there too yet. Because how I found this out, why Easter Blackburn over here, you see she --- Bessie Craddock was an aunt to her by marriage. Easter, she was Jack Craddock's girl. And Dave, he was married to Bessie Howe, Dave Craddock was. Oh, Jack's brother, you know.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: And I spoke to --- was talking to Easter here just last winter I guess it was, and she said that she'd heard from Bessie. She's getting old there now; she's quite a bit older than I am.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh. I should have brought that letter over with me. I forgot it slick as a whistle. But anyway, I've told you on the phone what --- I read it there to you. And then we could look at it a little more. How did, how did that area get the name of Van?

VICTOR: Well, by the name of a fellow named Van Middlesworth. He was the first postmaster. He was down there just across the river bridge there from the Acton place, where Jack Miller used to live, you know. Down there over the hill.

MARCUS: Yes, yeah.

VICTOR: That was the Middlesworth place.

MARCUS: And that was the first Van?

VICTOR: Yeah, that was the first Van. Well, at that time why --- and maybe it is such, I don't know, why they wanted the shorter name for a post office. And his name was Van Middlesworth, so they called it Van.

MARCUS: Uh huh. And then later it was moved back up where you

VICTOR: Yes, it was.

MARCUS: --- where you and the Howe's got it down there.

VICTOR: Yeah, back up in there. And --- let's see, I don't know, I think though when it left Middlesworth why it went to ---I think Mrs. Holebos run it over there. And that was just down the lower end of the Larsen field. There used to be a house there, they used to have a homestead in there, Holebosses did. I think she had the post office awhile there.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: And then, the way I understand it, why it went to Howe's then up there at our old home place. Then come back down there to Ed Howe's, and then it went back up to the Gearhart place. There was a house on --- well going from Drewsey, just on this side of the creek. Used to be a house there on the south side of the road there where the road forks to go up to our old place.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: Yeah. And Mrs. Capps she run it there for several years. But she had it --- Wallace had the Gearhart rented. So she runs it for several years and then they moved it up to Ed Wards. It was up there towards the old Cawfield place. About half way from the Gearhart place to the Cawfield place, and Ed's wife run it there for a while. And then it --- and then it went from there up to Jeff Cawfield's. He run it for oh, six or eight years, him and his wife. Then one day he got a job working for Weinstein over there in Crane, running that store. Well he brought it over and turned it over to my wife. And she run it for thirty-five years there, until they discontinued the post office.

MARCUS: When was it discontinued Vic, do you recall?

VICTOR: Well, it was when Eisenhower was in there, but I just can't tell you what year.

MARCUS: Eisenhower, let's see, that would be in the early '50's then, wouldn't it?

VICTOR: Yeah, I think so.

MARCUS: Yeah. Uh huh.

VICTOR: Yes. I have an idea, '51, '52, '53, somewhere along there, yeah.

MARCUS: Where was the Cawfield house?

VICTOR: Well, the Cawfield house is --- well now, why it belongs to Knowles up there.

It's ---

MARCUS: That's where Casseys ---

VICTOR: That's Casseys.

MARCUS: Casseys moved to there?

VICTOR: Yeah, they was there, yeah.

MARCUS: That was the Cawfield house?

VICTOR: Yeah, that was the Cawfield house.

MARCUS: I knew, oh I'd seen Jeff, but I knew George and all his family, you know, and Frank and ---

VICTOR: Yeah ...

MARCUS: Frank raised a couple girls, and then they moved into Washington when we were just little kids.

VICTOR: Yeah, yeah. Yes, you see after --- well Jeff come there, oh I guess it was '13 or '14, somewhere along there. 1913, or '14 he moved over there. See he got that place from Charlie Johnson, his brother-in-law. Charlie, he used to be over here at the Double O.

MARCUS: Oh.

VICTOR: Yeah. And well, what caused Charlie to move over there I guess, why Joe Williams, him and his family, they lived over there at the Double O too. So they got, bought that old Lillard Ranch, they come over there. Well, then Johnson's they was neighbors over there of Joe's at Double O. So they'd heard about that place up there, so

they come over to --- and bought it. And then at that time, why it belonged to Alec Olsen. He'd homesteaded it.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: So they bought it from him, come over there. And then they sold to Cawlfeld, that was another brother-in-law of course, of Johnson's. So it --- then Jake and Mrs. Fry, that was Cassey's mother and step-dad, why they moved in there. They kept ... 'Course it belonged to his mother, she was the one who bought it. But she married Jake Fry then, about the same time.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: So they ---

MARCUS: We got acquainted with Jake Fry when Chet Craddock had the Sod House rented over there in the early '40's.

VICTOR: Yeah, he ...

MARCUS: Jake I suppose is long, long dead isn't he?

VICTOR: Yes. Well he ---

MARCUS: He was a pretty old man then.

VICTOR: Yeah. I don't remember just when Jake died, but --- you see he wound up in the nursing home in John Day.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: Yeah.

MARCUS: Scotty Finleyson was over there, and Clarence Gardner, and we met those fellows. I haven't seen Scotty since he left over there. Sold him a horse, last time I saw him. Yep.

VICTOR: I saw Scotty at the --- it was Harold Cawlfeld's funeral, or Ethel's his wife, one of the two, I seen him. Last time I seen him, yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: Yeah.

MARCUS: I see Whit quite often.

VICTOR: Well, I seen Whit here --- first time I'd seen him for oh, forty years I guess. Jett, yeah Jett Blackburn and I was fishing over here on Emigrant. We went out through, come down over on Camp creek, up in Silvies Valley. And my god we met this fellow from over there that had cattle, raising up in here in the forest. And old Whit was with him. And my god we talked there quite awhile, and finally why he acted like he knowed everybody, and finally I said, "By the way, who are you?" He told me, I was ...

MARCUS: You didn't know him, huh?

VICTOR: No, and he didn't know me either!

MARCUS: Yeah, he was a great friend of John Scharff's, you know, when he --- I met him down on the refuge a few years ago, and we went up on the mountain and measured snow one time together. I saw Whit here not long ago, some occasion --- oh, Florence's and John's fiftieth wedding anniversary, and visited with him a little bit then.

VICTOR: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: Gosh, along at that time, Van was quite a community, sounds like. Quite a few people lived up there.

VICTOR: Yeah, when we went there in 1910, we got there in April, and I went to school -- - that was my first school. I was nine years old that spring of that year. And I went to school there about a month before the school --- There was nineteen enrolled there in that district then.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh.

VICTOR: Yeah, yeah, there was a lot of kids there. Yeah, there was several of the Ward kids, Gearharts, Davises ---

MARCUS: Where was the schoolhouse at Vic?

VICTOR: Well, you know where --- what they call the Frenchy house there, the old house; you know where it is there? The old Gearhart place?

MARCUS: That Lee has?

VICTOR: Well, no, not the one Lee has. The one that Rotha has. Up there on the main road.

MARCUS: Oh, yes, yes.

VICTOR: Well, it's about a --- oh, between a quarter and a half a mile straight on up towards the old Cawfield place.

MARCUS: Oh, up that road.

VICTOR: The road going to Silvies, yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh.

VICTOR: Yeah. Yes, what little education I got was in that house.

MARCUS: You used to have some real severe winters up there, didn't you?

VICTOR: Damn right we had some winters. I was just telling Mrs. Johnson, that's Leon Thompson's ---

MARCUS: Inger, Inger Johnson.

VICTOR: Yeah, yeah, Inger. I was telling her, she came over this morning to pay her rent. I was telling her the first winter we was over there, why --- the damn house was still burnt down up there at the ranch, there wasn't no house there, and we slept in the barn. And there was a little log cabin there that we done the cooking in, Mother did. Anyway, why Dad got a house started there; had Bill Ward doing the carpentering. And we got it all done except the doors and windows. Well Dad had to take a four-horse team to go to John Day to get winter supplies, so he picked up the doors and windows over there. And we just had quilts over the doors. And Christmas Eve we --- well, I guess it was about

noon, day before --- I don't mean Christmas, I mean New Years. Well by god it started to snowing. And by god it was snowing yet the next morning. Was eighteen inches of snow piled up there, and by god it never did go off until the next May.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: We got more than that too! Yes, I've seen it several winters right there in the yard there'd be four foot of snow out there.

MARCUS: Yes, I bet you have.

VICTOR: You bet you.

MARCUS: I know Allen told me about the winter that he stayed up at the Gearhart place there. He said that the fences, the stack yards, the fence --- the snow was right over the top of them.

VICTOR: Yeah, just lots of winters there. Of course the snow would usually, would settle in the ... you know, so you could do it. But hell, them cattle get right out there and walk right over them fences. And by god you had to get them another field away from the stack or --- either that or go out there and stick some --- down there and put some netting or something around to keep them out, because they just walk anyplace.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh.

VICTOR: And they'd get out there, them cows would, sometimes you know out on the --- go across so, where there's warm water or something running. Why they'd see that green grass and go over there, and by god they'd get marooned out there. Break through that snow, then you had to dig them out.

MARCUS: Yeah, I bet you would.

VICTOR: Yeah, they would high center ...

MARCUS: That'd be a terrible job, wouldn't it?

VICTOR: Yeah, it was a hell of a job. (Laughter) You bet you! And the cows a little weak, why she'd about had it.

MARCUS: Yeah, you bet. Laying down there in that snow, she'd get it pretty quick, wouldn't she?

VICTOR: Yeah, you bet. Yeah.

MARCUS: Well, did you move from the Sod House Ranch to Van?

VICTOR: Yeah. That's where he went.

MARCUS: Was that ---

VICTOR: Yeah, that's where he went.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: That's where he went. He bought the ranch up there, and we stayed a month up there. So then, by god, they got that job with old Gilchrist. They took a wagon and a team over to Lyndon Creek, Nevada, that's just over the line, you know.

MARCUS: Yes. Yeah.

VICTOR: Dad went down there two years, you know.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Well, when did they go to the Sod House?

VICTOR: They went to the Sod House, let's see, 1903 I guess. Was there two years, and we left there when I was --- We had to have went there in 1904, 'cause I was two years old when we left there and we went to Nevada, yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, I heard Dora tell about ---

VICTOR: Yes.

MARCUS: --- you. She was born in '97.

VICTOR: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: She was quite a little older than you, but she always remembered Vic Cleveland being at Sod House. I've heard her tell about it.

VICTOR: Yes, I thought the world of Dora. By god she was good to me. Little kid, you know.

MARCUS: Yeah, you bet, you sure remember those people.

VICTOR: ... down there at that time, you see, why --- the kids didn't come to the ranch why, god, Mother didn't have no time to visit. She had fifteen, twenty men to cook for all the time.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, you bet.

VICTOR: Well, my god, your mother she'd bring Dora over once in awhile, and Donna Gaffey, she'd bring William --- and let's see, there was Art, Arthur wasn't it?

MARCUS: Yes.

VICTOR: They was the oldest ones. She'd bring them over. But Mary, she'd bring Culver and Ray more than anybody. She didn't have much to do, you know. Not very far, so she'd come over there.

MARCUS: (Laughter) I'll be darned.

VICTOR: Yeah.

MARCUS: Gee whiz, we're talking back quite a ways.

VICTOR: Yes, we are.

MARCUS: Well, did Corbett --- Corbett had the ranch then, he'd bought it --- he bought that in 1903 I think, didn't he? Henry Corbett from Portland bought the French holdings.

VICTOR: Oh, yeah.

MARCUS: Hanley, Hanley was the manager.

VICTOR: Yeah, Hanley was the manager. Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah.

VICTOR: And your dad he --- but Hanley, he --- well they was just a kinda finishing things up. They had an old lawyer; I think he was, by the name of Lusk. I know he come there to the ranch, stayed quite a while, you know.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh.

VICTOR: Yeah, they was just kind of finishing the deal up.

MARCUS: Yeah, I think he was the, he was the executor of the estate.

VICTOR: Yeah, that's what he was.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's right.

VICTOR: 'Cause Dad, he never worked for the Frenchglen any, I don't think. I think he went to work for Hanley.

MARCUS: Yes, he --- Glen was --- or French was killed in '97. And then they went into the estate there, and Lusk was the executor of that.

VICTOR: Well you see Dad he never come here until '99, '98 or --- '98, I guess it was he came, yeah. And he worked for this old Joe Williams out there at the Double O. And he also worked for Bob Williams here on Silver Creek.

MARCUS: Oh, yes.

VICTOR: You see Bob Williams, he was raised in Arkansas too, and he come out of the same neighborhood that Dad was raised.

MARCUS: Is that so? Well you dad was from Arkansas?

VICTOR: Yeah, uh huh.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Well, that's where you got related to the Swords, they're from Arkansas too.

VICTOR: Yeah, well you see Sword's mother is Dad's sister.

MARCUS: Oh, yes. Oh, uh huh.

VICTOR: Yeah, that's where that come from.

MARCUS: Well, you've seen a great change in Drewsey in your lifetime.

VICTOR: Yes sir. ... there must have been over a hundred people there. We had a high school there, and they had a grade school, and they had two hotels, and two livery stables, and a barbershop, and a drug store.

MARCUS: Yeah, it just had everything you needed there.

VICTOR: Ever needed. Yeah, and a doctor. There was, well Doc Marsden, he moved from there. But there was a woman by the name of Smith, and there was another by the name of Melvin. They was doctors, both of them. Seemed to me like there was one by the name of Harris, or Harrison, or something I believe. And I think Melvin was the last one there. So they kinda started to scatter. But it hung together pretty good until the First World War --- well, prohibition. That's what scattered it.

MARCUS: It was. (Laughter)

VICTOR: Yeah. I was driving stage. I was driving the stage and of course I had to stay up and see what all was a happening. And they run them saloons until midnight. And when they closed, why by god, I tell you the next morning there was nobody on the street, nor nothing doing. And it never was anything after that.

MARCUS: Huh.

VICTOR: Then the, the first world war come along, why so many of them young fellows, you know, they went to the shipyards, the ones that didn't have to go to the service.

MARCUS: Yeah.

VICTOR: Yeah. And a lot of them never come back. Yeah. There was Les Riley was talking about, why him and his wife lived there. They had a girl, and they lived there all the time. But he went to the shipyards, and they never come back. And there was a family by the name of Lambs. Used to own the old Lamb Ranch, why they was three of them boys, they never come back there. Oh, a lot of them --- some of the Ward boys,

there was two or three of them went into the service, they never came back there. Jimmy Capps, he come back for a short time. ...

MARCUS: There was quite a large family, wasn't there, quite a bunch of them Wards around in Drewsey?

VICTOR: Of Wards, you mean?

MARCUS: Yeah.

VICTOR: Yeah, there was, yeah. Well Lige Ward he come back all right, and he died there. Yeah. And Grover come back too, I guess, for a while.

MARCUS: Jim, Jim and Lige was the only one I ever knew. But I hear of them --- a new one pops up ever once in awhile. You talk to folks over at Drewsey and kind of get going and reminiscing like we are here, and they mention a new Ward to me ever once in awhile.

VICTOR: Yes, you see Bill's family, Bill Ward; he was married to one of the Metcalf women. No, he was married to Jess Davis's sister, he was married too. And Polk Gearhart's wife, she was one of the Davis girls too. Anyway, Bill he had to --- well the boys was Jess, Ed, Grover, Lige, Herb, and Lonnie. And then he had two girls. See Frances Miller's mother, she was one of them.

MARCUS: Oh.

VICTOR: Tommy Howard's mother was one of them.

MARCUS: Yeah, all Wards.

VICTOR: Yeah, nine children in that family.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: Yes.

MARCUS: Well, they raised big families, didn't they?

VICTOR: Yeah, they did. By god no, why people --- a woman and a man both working,

can't raise one or two. Got to get on relief.

MARCUS: No. Nope, they sure can't. Well, was --- you weren't
--- were you the only one in your family?

VICTOR: Yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: Yes, the folks I think, they seen what a damn mistake they made, and they just
quit.

MARCUS: Just quit right there. (Laughter)

VICTOR: Yeah. Yeah, I was the only one.

MARCUS: By golly, there is sure some fine people in Drewsey. We've just ---

VICTOR: Darned if there ain't.

MARCUS: I enjoyed meeting them you know, all these years.

VICTOR: Yes. It's still home for me.

MARCUS: Yeah, I bet it is.

VICTOR: Yeah, it always will be.

MARCUS: Gosh, we go over there, you know, and there --- everybody is just so friendly,
among themselves and all too, you know. Lloyd Jordan told me one time, he said, "We
might fight like hell out here before the dance, but when we come to dance, our troubles
are all left to home, and we just come and have a good time."

VICTOR: Yeah, yeah. Don't seem to hold a grudge very long.

MARCUS: No.

VICTOR: He used to be up there on the creek, you know, they --- damn there was a lot of
relation there. Well, god if you said anything against one of them, by god why you was in
trouble.

MARCUS: You bet.

VICTOR: Yeah, even if they was fighting among themselves, yeah.

MARCUS: You bet you, you want to stay out of that.

VICTOR: You damn right! But they didn't, they'd cool off pretty quick.

MARCUS: Yeah, they've been an independent community too. Well, Newt Hotchkiss said one time, I thought it was about right, he said, "They're all related over at Drewsey," he said, "the roads are so bad, they couldn't get out, they had to marry her."

VICTOR: Well, well hell, they couldn't get acquainted no other place. Like Roy Clark said to Eva Retherford one time, you know she was a Drewsey girl. Yeah, she was Os Arnold's daughter. Why anyway, she was related to all of them. So Roy said, "Why god," he said, "that bunch over there inter-marry quite a bit." "Oh," she said, "they had a hard winter over there." (Laughter) Had a hard winter, something to that effect. Yes, Eva she is related to a lot of them.

MARCUS: Is Bessie Clark alive yet?

VICTOR: No, they're all gone.

MARCUS: They're all gone.

VICTOR: Yeah, Bessie died last, about the first day of April so Ethel Clark wrote me.

MARCUS: You know, I made a tape --- you'd enjoy hearing this too, with Ethel, oh maybe three or four, four years ago probably.

VICTOR: Oh, did you? Uh huh.

MARCUS: Met her here in town and made a tape. And I've got to make a tape down here with Alice. She promised me too, but I haven't got around to it. And time is kind of running out on some of these ---

VICTOR: By god yes, a man can't wait too long.

MARCUS: No, you can't wait too long. I waited --- I tried to get a tape with Lloyd Hill, and I, I went down and visited with him a year ago last spring. And --- "Would you like to make

a tape?" "Yeah, I would." And I said, "Well I'll bring my stuff in." And he doesn't talk very plain, so I got a big recorder with a microphone to just hang around his neck for him, and so I got the stuff there. I said I'd be in, in the morning. And Arthur Culp died that night, and it shook him up until he didn't know whether he was Lloyd Hill or who he was.

VICTOR: The devil!

MARCUS: Yeah.

VICTOR: Worked on his nerves too much.

MARCUS: Yeah, and never got back to him.

VICTOR: Well too, that's kind of funny now --- well I wouldn't say funny, but Lloyd, you know, I was down, it hadn't been over two or three weeks before he passed away. Then I seen him out there walking around with his cane, and I talked to him awhile. But by god, I guess it just hit him all at once.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh.

VICTOR: He might have been a little older, but ---

MARCUS: Well I didn't know that. Gosh we just heard the day before the funeral that he had died. We didn't know that he was

--- I saw him up here in the store when Ereno's had their sale.

VICTOR: Oh, did you?

MARCUS: I went back in there looking for somebody, and he was setting back there in a chair, and visited with him a little bit. And I thought he was a lot better than he was the day I'd seen him there, about a year before.

VICTOR: Well, I think he did improve there for a while, you know. He got that, what was that, acupuncture or something.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, he went to Boise and got something done over there.

VICTOR: Yeah, that's when he went walking again, yeah. Hell, he was so he couldn't

walk. Said they had to pack him out of the car and into the barbershop, someone told me. Help him in there. Yeah, he'd walk around out here with his cane ...

MARCUS: I heard that he was dancing with Nellie. And I said, "There's something wrong, he hasn't danced with Nellie for forty years." (Laughter)

VICTOR: That's what I've heard about that, yes sir, by god!

MARCUS: Yeah, I can't quite believe that one. Some young chick came along; I could believe that all right. But not his dancing with Nellie.

VICTOR: By god he was hell after them nurses up to that hospital ...

MARCUS: He really made them hop around, didn't he? By god he did a pretty good job up there at that, I think. He kept everybody happy and all ---

VICTOR: Yeah. Yeah, and he'd done better if he hadn't been petting them nurses so much, hell ---

MARCUS: He was just thirty years too old when he got that job. That was all that was wrong with him.

VICTOR: Yeah, that's all that was the matter with him.

MARCUS: Yeah. Sure was.

VICTOR: Yep.

MARCUS: Did you know Jess Bunyard?

VICTOR: Well, I've seen him is all, Marcus. I never knew him, no.

MARCUS: We were surprised to read in the obituary here in the paper the other day, fifty-eight years old, doesn't seem possible that he died when --- Well he was on a trip someplace, some island somewhere. Must have done real good.

VICTOR: He must have, yeah. Yes, and I --- from what they said in that obituary there he must have got quite a business there.

MARCUS: You bet.

VICTOR: Yeah, yeah. Oh, I knew Roy pretty well, but I didn't know any of the rest.

MARCUS: Yeah, they were raised right there on the lake. They lived right down below the old Hughet house there.

VICTOR: Yes, I've heard Dad speak of them.

MARCUS: Yeah, they were Jim Bunyard's kids. There was Pat, and Jess, and Henry. And then there was a girl, Barbara. 1932, I think the spring of 1932, the girl was just a little tot, and she got pneumonia, and they nearly lost her. And they stayed here in town with her, and I stayed down there with those three boys. And we lambbed out sheep, he run sheep at the time. Had a lambing shed with tules on top of it, you know, and --- We used to have some great times around there. Don't seem like it would be, you know, that he would be that old. He was the youngest one of the three boys, and an ornery little fart, he just started school. He used to get mad at us, and want to kill us, like most kids did. (Laughter)

VICTOR: Yeah. My god, the time goes pretty fast.

MARCUS: Oh yes, sure does.

VICTOR: Some things though that it seems a long time, but other things, by god, it don't seem ---

MARCUS: You say you sold out, when?

VICTOR: I sold out in '69.

MARCUS: In '69. You've been here ten years?

VICTOR: Uh huh.

MARCUS: That don't seem possible.

VICTOR: Well, it don't. Well in a few days it will be eleven years, because we got here just a day or two before Christmas.

MARCUS: Well ---

VICTOR: Yeah, I'd been a moving all summer, hauling stuff in. Had that damn garage full of it. And so we just had one truck load of the --- kept the beds back, and some cooking utensils. Agnes says, "Well," says, "we either going to have to get some grub or finish moving." I said, "By god, well how long will it take you to get ready?" She says, "Not very long." "Well," I says, "god we'll go today then." And we come in here.

MARCUS: Uh huh, uh huh.

VICTOR: Yeah, I think it was the 23rd that I moved here ... Yeah, of course I sold out, you see, long in June. But I wasn't in no hurry to leave, so Dave had to have somebody there to irrigate. So I told him, I said, "Well, if you'll let me go ahead and stay the summer and take care of my milk cows, why I'll irrigate for nothing." And so I did. ... go out there and change the water every morning.

MARCUS: Sure, sure. Well, you've enjoyed your retirement, haven't you Vic?

VICTOR: Yes, I have, yeah. I --- we're in a damn good neighbor-hood here.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: By god, the best neighbors in the world, yeah.

MARCUS: Yes --- that's --- we're going to enjoy --- I am anyway. I don't know if Edna and my dog --- they're not too happy.

VICTOR: Oh, she'll get --- hell, she'll get mixed up around here with these old women, you know. And then parties, and one thing and another.

MARCUS: Yeah.

VICTOR: Yeah, hell yes.

MARCUS: (Laughter)

VICTOR: One or two things I thought you might help that fellow out some --- he was wanting that information. Why, he could find out if you wanted to here and you could from Easter, as to what Bessie Howe or Bessie Craddock's address is, you could write to her

up there in Washington. And also Paul Howe, his second boy, he used to barber, and I guess he does yet down there in the Imperial Hotel. He was there two or three years ago, 'cause I went and visited him.

MARCUS: Oh.

VICTOR: And if he isn't there, why the manager of the hotel would know where he's at. He's retired all right, several years ago, but he said he'd go down there pretty near every day to the barbershop, and visit around.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Well Easter, would she have his address too?

VICTOR: No.

MARCUS: Well, she lives here in Burns I guess, doesn't she?

VICTOR: You mean Easter?

MARCUS: Easter, yeah.

VICTOR: Yeah, she lives right there in that next house, right there.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

VICTOR: Well, she, she's got her aunt ... Bessie. She's got her address.

MARCUS: Yes, well I'll call her, and I'll send the address to this, to these people.

VICTOR: Yeah. And if you wanted to get in contact with Paul, why you can address a letter to that Imperial Hotel and get him.

MARCUS: Yeah.

VICTOR: And then there's a --- and Harry Howe, well I don't know if he's alive yet or not. He was the oldest boy. But he lived up in Washington too. And then there was Roy Howe, but he's been dead several years. And the two girls they died when I was telling you about --- they had --- well their mother and them both died just about the same time.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

VICTOR: Yeah. Yeah, the girls they died of typhoid fever, and I forget what the mother

died of.

MARCUS: Well, I'll be darned.

VICTOR: Yeah, the both of them at the same time. Yeah. So I just happened to think of that, that would help him.

MARCUS: You bet, sure will. They're probably grasping for every bit of information they can get. If they've gone this far, you know.

VICTOR: Uh huh.

MARCUS: So I'll --- somebody is going to come and write this up for me, I can't write very well. And so we'll get it off to them, and I'll call Mrs. Craddock and ask her ---

VICTOR: Yeah.

MARCUS: --- not Mrs. Craddock, but Mrs. Blackburn.

VICTOR: Mrs. Blackburn.

MARCUS: Blackburn, yeah.

VICTOR: Yeah, she can tell you.

MARCUS: ... just happen to ---

VICTOR: 'Cause they write back and forth, and if he can't get in connection with Paul through that Imperial Hotel, why Bessie can tell him.

MARCUS: Sure.

VICTOR: --- anyway, yeah.

MARCUS: Sure, you bet. Okay, why thank you Vic. By golly that's going to be a dandy tape to have here. We'll probably transcribe some of this and put it in the library, if you don't mind.

VICTOR: I don't give a damn what you do with it. (Laughter)

MARCUS: Okay. (Laughter)

(END OF TAPE)

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