

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #207 - Side A

Subject: Civilian Conservation Corp Presentation

Harney County Historical Society Meeting

Place: Burns, Oregon

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Interviewer: Marcus Haines

MARCUS HAINES: Well, the tape is turning, so I guess it's on, what she doesn't like she can erase I guess. Before we start out here ... boys, I'll stand right here. I'll tell you a little bit about the CC's. This was the refuge headquarters, the old Sod House Spring, and the first camp came in here in --- thank you Art --- came here in April of 1935, and they set up a tent camp. You can see the --- I'll show you the tent camps here, but you can see the old mess hall and some of the permanent buildings that had been moved a little later on. And the prime purpose of the camps were to improve the refuge. The refuge had just been purchased here --- all the --- the government was in the process of acquiring Malheur Lake. And they had purchased all of Blitzen Valley from the old Pete French holdings from the Sod House Lane clear on up to Frenchglen and around. So they had lots of room for work. So they set up these camps here, and here's the CC Camp here. And in 1935, when you used to go into the refuge there you'd have driven right into --- the old road went right between the camps. This was the army, the site of the camp, and then the boys were down in the tents there. Here's the mess hall, part of the ... I think this was the bathhouse here. Another view of it here. ...

MAN: What's that in the haze there, Marcus? Is that that dry lake ...

MARCUS: Well, yeah. There is a dry lakebed down near the Cato house there. That's

what you're seeing, yes. This is water on the left, and to the right of the trees there, or just to the left of the ... trees are the lakebed. Here, where they're lined up here for work call. Baird, why don't you tell us a little bit about work call? That would be a good one to start out with.

HALE BAIRD: ... I never did work. (Laughter)

MARCUS: You made a lot of them work though. I think you know a little something about it. Well, I bet you Wimpy does. You were ... quite a lot, didn't you Wimpy?

WIMPY (?): Yeah.

MARCUS: You had a work call here. Tell us about a work call, will you in the CC Camp. Tell us about it, will you?

WIMPY: Work call?

MARCUS: Yes.

WIMPY: ... and they had work call, and they'd line up and they had certain crews that you would go on to. And one point they had a truck take this crew, maybe to a finish crew, the other crew go to the roads, maybe be another crew would go out to the lake bed, where they were putting up dikes and things. I worked on two or three different crews for the short period of time, then I got a job driving truck for a foreman. I don't know whether any of you remember him or not, Oscar Nelson. And I drove truck for him all the time that they had the three C's in the bird refuge, on the bird refuge.

MARCUS: Okay, thank you Wimpy. Another picture of the camp here. Now in 1937, the camp was moved over --- here's that alkali lakebed I was telling you about right over, directly over the camp here, Rex. And the permanent camp was moved down here. And you can see they moved the mess hall. You can see it, these four here on this side were the barracks, and then the mess hall, and then over on this side was the officer's quarters,

and refuge personnel. Technical quarters, I think they called it.

MAN: Could you drive across the lake there, Marcus?

MARCUS: What?

MAN: Could you drive right across the lake, right in ... take off from there and go straight north?

MARCUS: Yeah, you could then. Yeah.

MAN: I've driven that several times.

MARCUS: Yeah, so have I. That's the way we used to go to Burns.

MAN: Yeah.

MARCUS: If you couldn't get through to Hanley Lane, drive across Malheur Lake, come out at Lawen, and then tried to get from there on into Burns. You bet. And this, this was the barracks here. And I'm going to ask Don, I know you spent some time in there, how did you keep from freezing to death? You could throw a cat out through the cracks in some of those buildings.

DON FILTEAU: Well, you just got your four blankets that you were issued to you, and if you could talk the supply sergeant into giving you any more, why that was fine too. But otherwise, why you froze!

MARCUS: Try to get as close to the stove as you could, probably.

DON: Right. Yeah. And they run out of coal, so you couldn't keep a fire all night. And ---

MARCUS: There was a stove at each end of it. About a hundred and fifty feet long, weren't they? Or longer?

DON: Well, they were fifty men barracks.

MARCUS: Yeah. They were long, long buildings. And they had a stove at each end, and they were bolted together, portable buildings, and that's the reason that they weren't too

tight, of course. But then here's the mess hall and the cook crew. Does anybody remember, want to talk about the meals you used to have? Carl, how about you?

CARL WESTFALL: Oh, sometimes the chow was good. Sometimes not so good.

(Laughter)

MARCUS: Most the time it wasn't so good, huh?

CARL: We made it.

MAN: You could tell which day it was though by the kind of chow you had.

MARCUS: You could, huh.

MAN: Yeah, whether it was Wednesday, or Thursday, or Friday, why you could tell.

MARCUS: That's when you got goldfish, wasn't it?

MAN: Yeah.

CARL: We had one old cook out there by the name of Goddard, last name was Goddard.

He was a real good cook. He could take mashed potatoes and make them taste like steak. (Laughter)

HALE: Yeah, but Carl, you never drank his coffee. (Laughter)

CARL: He ... it disappeared.

HALE: He started out in the morning with a gallon can, and a pound of coffee. And then all through the day he'd add a handful of coffee, and a cup of water. And as we went off shift, that gallon can would be completely full of grounds. It was a little stout.

MARCUS: Well, this was the old mess hall then that was left. The army came in and tore down the portable buildings, and this old mess hall was left standing there. And when Joe Mazzoni came, they tore it out. And it is gone now, but that was our community hall for many years there. Al Lutte had a workshop, carpenter shop down in the far end of it there. But just off to the right here, there is an "L" in it, and that's where the kitchen is.

This was all dining room right through here. But anyway, we had lots of, lots of times used to square dance, and had great times there.

CARL: One thing that might be of interest on that too Marcus, the food that we had that had to be refrigerated, we had a cellar out there that we kept it in. Right off to the left of that entrance way down there, on the far end. And later on, I think it was 1940, '41, somewhere along in there, why some guy came in there and put a compressor with a old one lung banger on it. And they had a coil in there, and we run that thing two or three days to get that coil froze, and that would keep that thing cold for a week.

MARCUS: It's in this picture here Carl, huh?

CARL: Pardon?

MARCUS: It's in this picture here?

CARL: Yeah, the "L" off of the dining hall, there was ---

MARCUS: Off the dining hall.

CARL: There was a root cellar out there, just to the left of it.

MARCUS: Yeah, uh huh.

DON: Those were two hundred men camps, by the way. So you get an idea of how many ---

MARCUS: And then --- this was the library, wasn't it? Anybody want to talk about the library? I guess it was the library. It wasn't ---

DON: They called it the rec hall.

MARCUS: They called it the rec hall.

DON: Yeah.

MARCUS: Okay. It was the one over next to the road there Don, was it?

DON: Yeah. ...

MARCUS: Next to the Cato Lane.

DON: It was by ...

CARL: ... the building behind it was the rec hall.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh. Now here's some of the boys here that was in the --- the fellow here in the second row at the bottom, and the second one in from the left is Noel Cagel, now that's the only fellow that I know in the group there. They were named here. I wouldn't have recognized Noel here. Noel died here a year ago last June the 27th of June. Lots of you knew him. Maybe some of the boys here that you fellows know.

Here's another group here. There isn't two hundred of them here. There must have --- they didn't get them all out for their pictures or something, but there is quite a little bunch of them anyway. Fine looking bunch of boys. Now, who's the gentleman over here at the right in this picture, Carl?

CARL: On the left?

MARCUS: No, on the right.

CARL: That's me. (Laughter) The guy on the end there, I think his name was White, wasn't it?

WOMAN: Bill White.

CARL: Bill White.

WOMAN: Yeah.

CARL: Tall guy in the center, to the left there is Jake Hinkel. The one in the center with the glasses on, wasn't that Bert Hansen. The one in the front, on the left there, I don't remember his name, he was a clerk there. And the one in the back there, I don't remember his name either, with the glasses on. Most of those guys worked in the office there. Jake was the first sergeant at that time.

MARCUS: Now Baird, you were telling me about these boys yesterday, why don't you go ahead. Some of these fellows were wiped out here right at the beginning of the world war, weren't they?

HALE: Yeah, Bert and Hinkel were.

WOMAN: Bill White was killed on Corregidor.

HALE: One was killed in Alaska, and one or two Iwo Jima I think.

WOMAN: 'Cause we heard from him just before Corregidor.

CARL: And the one on the extreme right there almost didn't make it back. (Laughter)

MARCUS: Well, you were working for the army here ---

CARL: Yeah.

MARCUS: --- Carl, weren't you?

CARL: I was with the PX here. I think that's the title we had.

HALE: Were you in the army?

CARL: No, I was in the three C's.

DON: It was led by the army though.

CARL: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, it was under army supervision. See, here is the army personnel here. But ---

MAN: You might be interested in knowing, during the thirties, my dad commanded a three C Camp at Camp Klamath, and at Mount Rainier. And he was a reserve officer. They had mostly regular army officers. But they also had a bunch of reserves. He was a reserve officer. The thing I, I think the thing I remember best when you were talking about the kitchen, I was about eleven years old, and we'd go out occasionally to camp on Sunday, to eat Sunday dinner. And I was hungry all the time. And I can remember

going out there for Sunday dinner, and having them bring a platter of nothing but drumsticks. I never --- me and my brothers used to fight over drumsticks. And we could eat as many of them as we want. And then for dessert, they'd bring a bowl full of homemade ice cream that was so big that even we couldn't eat it. I'll never forget that. That was the most good food that I ever had in my life. It was good food.

CARL: Baird, do you remember the second one in from the right?

HALE: Yeah.

CARL: It was the camp commander.

HALE: That's Bloomquist.

CARL: Bloomquist was the one to his ---

HALE: Fury.

CARL: Fury. The educational officer was the one on the right.

MAN: What was his name?

HALE: Woods.

CARL: Harold Woods. And that was the doctor on the left, wasn't it?

HALE: Yeah, his name was Ryan.

CARL: Ryan. I forgot his name.

HALE: He was the head surgeon at Bellevue Hospital ...

MARCUS: And I might tell you that--- Mrs. Woods was to see us here last summer, this Harold Wood's wife. Harold was killed in a motorcycle accident in Portland, she said, about twelve years ago. They had traveled pretty well all around the country here, and I guess --- well Lindquist was killed in the war, and I don't know about Fury, do you Baird?

CARL: ... was killed up in the Aleutian Chain.

DON: Lindquist and the company clerk was killed in the Aleutian Chain.



MARCUS: Uh huh. But Fury, I don't know about him. Now, here's the personnel here that worked the boys here. And with exception of Jinks Harris there you all know --- you know Jinks, second one on the left there. They are all CC boys that came in here. Ivar Kostad on the right hand side, and Olie Nielson, and an Ed Anderson. And Baird, tell me the other fellow's name.

HALE: Cecil Downing, he's ---

MARCUS: Cecil Downing.

BAIRD: He spent six years in a Japanese P. W. Camp. Last time I saw him, he weighed about ninety pounds.

MARCUS: He was in Guam wasn't he? He left here and he went with Morris and Knudson, as I remember, and that was the first place that the Japs captured. And he spent time in the concentration camps.

CARL: I think they got Nelson there on Midway.

MARCUS: Did they?

CARL: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah. Nelson isn't in that picture either, is he? I'd forgotten about him. But go ahead and name Carl Jackson, and Hale Baird, and who would be the other one that was foreman?

HALE: Sanders.

MARCUS: Yeah. I guess Sanders was working out of there then. He was at Buena Vista a lot, you know. Well, anyway, this was the crew here. This is Lynn Harris' dad here, Jinks. That's Lynn Mimms here. Here's another, this was the Swede here. I think everybody remembers Albert Olefson from up at Diamond. He had some great times around there. He liked to drink pretty well, and he'd --- always tell Lottie he'd have to take

weekend duty. Well weekend duty was having to stay at camp over the weekend. Albert started home one evening, and his car got there at Diamond Lane, and he drove off into the barrow pit. Water rose right up in the seat! He just crawled out, and somebody come along, and he said, "Albert, what are you doing down there in that barrow pit?" Well he said, "I had to put water in the battery, and I didn't know any other way to do it" (Laughter) He had an answer for everything, I'll tell you. He come from Sweden when he was about twenty years old, and he married one of the Pugsley girls. He said he couldn't talk English, said Lottie proposed to him. He said yes, he didn't know what she had said.

Now here is some of the work projects here that the boys did here. They worked on all these buildings. This is the, this is the type "C" house right down the north side of the refuge headquarters. Here is the retaining wall, comes down to the office there from Scharff's house. Here is all --- Florence used to have all the flowers. This is putting the tile on the roofs here. And some fellow sitting on the scaffold working on the windows, and painting them too there, I think. And this is the pump house, it's still standing. We used it for a pump house, and a light plant for many years. There is stands right down at the end of the spring. And this is another retaining wall between the office and the service building that the boys were putting in there. The flagpole is out about where that pole --- that isn't a flagpole, but it is in that general area there now. This is the wall that is being laid up --- these boys learned a lot of trades there. They had the opportunity, and a lot of them took advantage of it too.

MAN: Where did they bring that stove from?

MARCUS: What?

MAN: Where did the stove come from?

MARCUS: Just near Buena Vista. To the north and west of Buena Vista there, about a

half a mile, Dale. This is the office building, that used to be, and they kinda got it closed up now, I think. This is Scharff's house here, where all the lawn and there --- see they got in the lava rock in those days. They made the walks out of lava rock. That's what this is piled up there for. Maybe you fellows can tell us something more about --- these are Carl's pictures here. I think most of them that ---

DON: That is Carl there, isn't it?

MARCUS: What?

DON: That is Carl, isn't it?

MARCUS: I don't know. I really don't.

WOMAN: Is that ...

MAN: I don't think so.

MAN: No.

MARCUS: No, I've got a --- I don't know just what's going on here, but these boys all manage to get a sunburn out of the deal here.

CARL: Oh ---

MARCUS: Now this is the rock quarry where the boys quarried out the rock, and Charlie Bacas, some of you remember Charlie ---

MAN: Yeah.

MARCUS: --- supervised the stonework here. That's Jim Green there in the back. Jim and I went over to the infirmary one time there at Buena Vista, and I stepped on the scale, and I weighed a hundred and fifty pounds. And he stepped on, and he weighed just two hundred and fifty. And his legs wasn't any longer than mine. But he was about six foot six tall. See how short legged he is? Kinda make you think of Mr. Dithers and Dagwood.

Here are the boys operating the Cats. They were put right on modern machinery,

and put right to work here. Here's a couple of them working right side by side. That's probably a foreman back standing there watching, see how they're making out.

This is the Sod House Dam, right above the refuge there on the Blitzen River. I recognize it real well. There is the Cat over there putting in, pushing against some back fill I think, along the, each side of the dam. This is one of Sandy Sanders projects here. They sure poured concrete.

Now this is a pile driver. Did you ever help run that Baird, or --- you were in the office. You didn't do anything like that. Carl was working for the army. Wimpy was driving the truck, and it kind of left it up to you, Don. Did you help run the pile driver?

DON: ... I take that back, I did get on the pile driver crew, yeah I did get on there for about a week or two.

MARCUS: Yeah. That would probably be a good one to get off of wouldn't it.

DON: Yeah.

MARCUS: This is a concrete pouring job, pouring the basement for that type "C" house that we have been seeing here. I was running the mixer here, and this was one of the foreman, Barney Shaddock. And he knew that these boys were going to go on a strike, which they did. We finished the basement walls there, along pretty late in the evening. And the next morning they refused to go to work. And so they just took the ringleaders out and they found out that Barney Shaddock knew that this strike was coming on, and he just

--- they tossed him in with them, and down the road they went. You probably don't remember that Don. It happened before you came in. This happened in '36. But --- you didn't have to see your congressman or somebody to get rid of somebody in those days. They just started you down the road. Because there was somebody else standing right

there to do the job if you didn't want to.

This is kind of an interesting three or four slides here. This was --- a fellow here by the name of Calvin Jones, had an old threshing machine. And in 1938, Wetzels had grain there where they lived, and we went up there and cut it with a binder. And then they took the CC boys up there with trucks, and Wimpy, you were probably in on this, and hauled the grain in, in bundles, and threw it into the separator. And here it goes right here. These boys are fascinated by this old John Deere tractor. Two cylinders poppin' and banging along there, but they run the separator there. They --- see the boys were in there pitching bundles into the threshing machine or separator it was called there. And that's the belt that goes up there and drives it. And the --- here's the --- loading the grain on the trucks down here.

Del Witzel was helping here, riding with the boys or something. I don't think Del got a hold of a pitchfork. But they found a rattlesnake out in the field there, and they threw him up on the truck. And so Del told one of these boys, he said, "You go run around there to the sack now and watch," he said, "the rattles will come out there pretty quick." So away the kid went. He stood around there 'till somebody run him off, waiting for those rattles to come out of that separator.

This is the buildings at Buena Vista. I put them up in 1937, and '38 with the CC labor. And this is the --- this is one of the crews. Your crew, they changed boys there pretty often, but this is one of my crews. A real fine bunch of boys. And this is what the buildings looked like after they were finished. We were --- had finished this building over here on the left, and the one on the right burned in 1959, in November 1959. And the old house that set under the trees has been moved out, right over here. You're looking at it here. There is some of the refuge personnel lived in it, that worked in the shops around

there. It set just about where the back end --- well just the other side of the back end of this, far end of the shop here. And there was another --- the kitchen and lean-to was on one side of it, and then there was a porch out on this side here.

And I'll have to tell you a story that old Tebo used to tell about that building. He said that it was supposed to be haunted. And there was supposed to have been some gold buried around there, and a man or two killed trying to find it. So Tebo told about sleeping upstairs in that building. And he said the door come open, and he got out of bed and closed it again, and he didn't much more than get back into bed, and it flew open again. And so he put the dresser against it then, that was in the room there. And pretty soon it flew out across the way, the door flew open. And he said it was a nice moonlight night, and he said there was a beautiful woman walked in about then in the nude, and she stood there and kept beckoning to Tebo to follow her. So he said he got up and went out, and he went out and she kept pointing, right to the base of one of those poplar trees. So he said he got down and digging around with his hands, and he said he reached down in there and he said he could just put his hand down into the mouth of a jug. He said he could just get a finger down in there. And Tebo would stop, and somebody said, "Well, what did you do then, Tebo?" Well he said, "That's when I woke up." He said, "I had my finger in my mouth trying to pull my teeth out." (Laughter) But that happened upstairs in that house there.

MAN: I stayed several weeks in that old house.

MARCUS: I'll bet you have.

MAN: ... used to cook in there for the buckaroos in there ... in that old house there too. One of the buckaroos had cattle out here. They'd use that big corral.

MARCUS: Yeah, and there was a barn back over here, just almost the end of this other

building on this side here. This was Pete French's --- one of his ranches, half way down the valley from "P" Ranch, down to the Sod House. It was called Escondido to begin with, then they changed the name to Buena Vista, I think, later on. But anyway that's --- that's looking right out into the valley. Here's another project here. The boys built this --- well the corral, there must be a rodeo or something coming on. Looked like a bunch of blackbirds sitting up there. Built a good corral to hold all those boys up.

MAN: That's still --- part of that is still there, isn't it?

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah. Uh huh. Needs a lot of repair. But --- I don't know just where this is at here, but up the "P" Ranch country someplace. I don't recognize that chute there. It wasn't down in the Sod House area, I know. Here's the Buena Vista Camp. And they were all built right on the same order. See the barracks over here on the left, and here is the mess hall right directly in front of us here. And then the army personnel buildings and the technical service on the right. And I guess the other one off down there was the rec hall. And the laundry and latrine and that was back to the left there. Here is another view of it here in 1937, in the wintertime. Probably the same time that other picture was taken.

And this is the only picture that I have of Five Mile, and it was under construction here, I think Carl gave it to me, or Don. These pictures I got from Don and Carl here for the other show. And there was a CC boy come in here six weeks ago, or such a matter, and stopped up to the Chamber office from Florida, and visiting. And he had an album with him and he had a perfect picture of Five Mile. And I wanted him to stick around until I could get my camera, and get it copied. And by golly he wanted to see Baird, and we called Baird, and Baird said it will be twenty minutes before I can get up there. And he said, "Well, I've got a rented car, and I got to get back to Boise." And away he went. I

didn't get a picture, and Baird didn't get to see him either. He was into Five Mile camp here.

Now this is the camp out at Fredrick Butte. If you go the other side of Hampton, twelve or fifteen miles, you will see a sign that says Fredrick Butte, and you went in there about four miles, I think, and this was the camp. It was a grazing service camp out there. This picture I got from Roe Davis. He took it from his airplane. They have changed the camp there a little bit, but not very much. You can see the four barracks. They hooked the barracks up with the hall on the back side, you see. I guess the wind blew so hard out there they had to do something in the wintertime. It was pretty rough.

WOMAN: What's that semi-circle ...

MARCUS: Well, it's just a row of rocks and stuff there, I think. Now here's a picture of Frenchglen that was taken at that time. These pictures, I think, were taken in 1937. Isn't that what it says on your book, Baird? Made up the picture --- this is the hotel, and see where the road runs through there, and ---

MAN: Bet everyone of them danced a lot in that big old building

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MARCUS: You bet.

MAN: --- at that time. That's --- I remember one time we went to a dance on the Fourth of July there, and my step-father said, "Well, we better go home." So he went out and started the old Model-A up. On those old Model-A's, you have to kind of choke them, you know, otherwise they die. So he tried to back it up a couple of times ... the fence, and he couldn't get --- it'd die every time. So finally he opened the gas up a little bit and choked her right good, and gunned her, and he went bouncing up there. My mother and I was in the dance hall. He says, "Boy, let's get to going." And my mother says, "What's the



matter?" He said, "I just backed over an Indian. Let's go home!" We never did hear much. That old Ford wasn't heavy enough to hurt him, just bruised him I guess.

MARCUS: Probably not. He probably didn't know the difference either, did he? Anyway, this was taken at the store there, at Frenchglen. That's old Chester Nye that used to live out in Catlow Valley. Some of you probably remember him.

MAN: Yeah. I got a picture ... on the mountain too.

MARCUS: He's got four or five packhorses and mules there. Maybe they are all mules, I don't know. There's a horse in the lead.

MAN: ... pack train ...

DON: There's where the lookout towers that they got on the refuge there in the west.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's the one at the "P" Ranch.

DON: Is that the one at the "P" Ranch?

MARCUS: Yeah. I think I can show you here. I don't know what's going on here. Anybody know those ---

CARL: The one on the left there Marcus, is that cook that I was telling you about, his name was Goddard.

MARCUS: Oh it is, huh?

CARL: I don't remember the guy on the right. Do you Baird?

HALE: No.

MARCUS: Do you remember this fellow? This is at the old Sod House site here. That used to be the sign that set down there near the --- built down there near the river. They called it the entrance sign there. Those boys probably helped build it. I don't know who this gentleman is here up at the water tower, up at the refuge headquarters.

CARL: That's me again.

MARCUS: That's you again. (Laughter) Carl was a pretty good-looking boy there, wasn't he?

CARL: I'm an inch and a half taller in that one than I am now too.

MARCUS: Does anybody know about this float here?

CARL: Yeah. We had that in the fair parade. I think it was in September of 1939. And we had some kid up there, we had one of those old hand turning type threshing machines.

MARCUS: Oh, yeah.

CARL: It showed him going into one end of the threshing machine, and another guy coming out on the other end of it.

MARCUS: Yeah, he went in there looking pretty shabby, and come out looking pretty nice on the other side. Wasn't that the way it was? Dressed him up in there. Well Carl, you probably can tell us something about this one here, the songbirds.

CARL: The what? Songbirds? Oh, that was a band that Woods and I and two or three more guys had out there.

MARCUS: I guess that was in the parade there too, looks like, wasn't it?

CARL: Well it was ... some little band out there, we was way out there, and we also played out at the grange hall, down at Frenchglen, down at Crane.

MARCUS: Well, here is the "P" Ranch. It's an aerial shot. I don't know where it came from. But there you can see the tower across the river --- you saw part of it in the Chester Nye picture there. See right out toward the road that is going out north there. Now this is Charlie Bacas' old well rig that maybe some of you remember. He drilled a well right near the, near the camp there at Buena Vista. This is where this was taken. And my gosh, the

water was so hard, you could skate on it --- and they had to go out in the valley there and drill the present well to get water that they could drink down there. But --- Charlie's old well drill there; they had the old one cylinder engine. You can see the big flywheels on it up toward the front end there. Run back, and run that big old drum there that Charlie had made out of wood. This was some of the fellows at that time. John Scharff, I think he is holding a cigar in his hand there. He probably wouldn't want to admit that now, but I think he's got it anyway. The other fellow is Stanley Jewett. Stanley Jewett was a biologist, and he was sent in here to manage the refuge when they started it here. And John Scharff was, was --- he left the forest service to go with the grazing service, and they sent him in here to set up the grazing on the refuge, and he never got away. And Jewett, he didn't like administration, so before John knew it, why he was superintendent of the refuge here.

DON: That's Joe Fine sitting right ahead of him, Scharff, isn't he?

MARCUS: No, that's --- Well, what was that again?

DON: Isn't that Joe Fine with the campaign hat on?

MARCUS: No, that's Jim Green. No that's --- the campaign hat on, no, that's Jewett see.

MAN: Oh.

MARCUS: And then Jim Green, that's the fellow I was telling you about with the short legs. See how tall he is? And the other fellow we've never been able to identify. We don't know who he is. And this is Arthur Page over here, that lived in Diamond. He was the --- he was an engineer that did a lot of work here, and died with pneumonia I think, in '37 or '38. Real fine fellow. Now does anybody remember this fellow? (Laughter) Well, this is Francis Griffin. And ---

REX (?): I watered that old steer a lot of times.

MARCUS: Francis would lead that old steer, and I see he's got a burro over there too. And this was taken up near Buena Vista, right above the Johnny Crow place there, I think. You could find him most anyplace, couldn't you Rex?

REX: Oh, you could find him anyplace.

MARCUS: Yeah. Sure could.

REX: Well Allen Jones called him that saddle bronc ... Oh, he used to get mad at Allen Jones, and he'd go down and go to sleep in the haystack, you know, the dark --- would catch him, you know. He'd crawl in the haystack and go to sleep.

MARCUS: Yeah.

REX: Allen Jones would call him the saddle bum, haystack sleeper and oh man, he'd ... Allen Jones, you know ... he'd come and just stomp around, and tell us all about it. He used to come down to our place a lot. He would give Allen Jones the devil for calling him all kinds of names.

MARCUS: Yeah, he was certainly one of the landmarks here, and he

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WOMAN: Marcus ---

MARCUS: Yeah.

WOMAN: --- did he do that all of his life? I mean he was pretty young there ...

MARCUS: Yeah, he did. Most of his life he was --- he ---

MAN: ...

WOMAN: Well I knew ... but he was older at that time.

WOMAN #2: He ran horses for a while, didn't they Marcus?

WOMAN: As long as I can remember, he did.

MARCUS: Yeah. He just rowed with one oar, you know. That was his problem.

Probably enjoyed life a lot more than some of the rest of us for that matter.

REX: He rode down the Lawen Lane one time with an old sorrel horse he used to ride. And he had gunnysacks of books and papers hanging on that old horse all over the saddle. He had a type- writer, and this old horse was walking down the road, and Francis, he decided he was going to write somebody a letter, I don't know who it was. So he got this typewriter, he was sitting up there pecking away, you know. A bird flew out, and that old horse bucked him, typewriter, books and all, right out through the water.

MAN: Yeah, you usually ... I wish I'd kept the contracts. They used to write out to a person, you know, say like you wanted to borrow a few dollars.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

MAN: It was the doggondest contract you've ever seen. It was about five pages long. I wish I'd of kept one of them now, but I didn't.

MARCUS: Well, Francis went back to New York; everybody thought they would put him in the pokey back there. But I guess they found they had much crazier ones than Francis, that there wasn't much comparison, you know. He was telling me about, when he got back, he said, "You know I went to see that man that they brought in from the islands someplace. He was supposed to be a hundred and forty years old." And he said, "Kind of a silly little old fellow." He said, "He lived on rice all his life." And he said, "He was just crazy about women." He said, "I'm going to outlive him." He said, "I like rice, but I don't care a thing about women," he says. But Francis didn't quite get it done. They finally had to put him in the nursing home up here. He's been gone for quite awhile. But he was --- we didn't have tape recorders in those days, we could sure have had some good tapes from Francis that --- He lived in another world, all the time. You know, you'd see Francis sometimes and he would be pretty sane, and the next time why he would just be clear off

into left field. And he was always going to make a million dollars with this and that and the other thing. Yeah. Do you remember him Dale?

DALE (?): Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DALE: You remember Marcus, when you know, way back when he was younger, you know, he'd talk about the thousands and millions of dollars, you know. And now today, right today, it's come right out, just what he used to ...

MARCUS: He'd be right in style now.

DALE: Yeah, he'd be right in style now, and ... way back in the olden days.

MARCUS: Sure would. Yeah.

HALE: He was just as sane as the rest of us. He was just ahead of his time!

MARCUS: Is that it? (Laughter)

CHUCK WALKER: Marcus, the first time, one time over at the Palace, it was Christmas season, and we were all at the bar having our drinks. And he came walking by the bar, so we invited him to have a drink. He said, "I don't care for a drink, but I'll take the money and buy ..." God, everybody give him the money.

MARCUS: They did, huh?

CHUCK: So he wasn't too dumb, I'll tell you. (Laughter)

MARCUS: Wasn't as dumb as you thought.

CHUCK: No, he was a pretty smart fellow.

HALE: I think we ought to have a program sometime just about Francis. Everybody could contribute to that.

MARCUS: Well, maybe we had better do that.

REX: Well, he used to pick them sand lily seeds down there, and bring them up and put

them in the bank, you know. He'd come down to our place, and he'd thresh them out, you know, them seeds. He said, "I'm going to make millions of dollars off these seeds one day." And I don't know whatever happened to them.

MAN: Don Filteau had those seeds up there at the county clerk's office.

MARCUS: He did, huh?

DON: Yeah, he went up there and checked on his seeds.

REX: He had them cactus seeds ...

MARCUS: Well, I think that's the end of the show folks, I think that's a pretty good one to stop on, isn't it?

(END OF TAPE)

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