

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #208 - Sides A/B

Subject: Marjorie Shull

Place: Shull Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: June 4, 1987

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Hi, this is Pauline Braymen, and I'm interviewing Marjorie Shull at her home in Burns. She will be the Queen Mother of the 1987 Harney County Pioneer Day celebration. Marjorie, you were born in Harney County weren't you?

MARJORIE SHULL: I was born at Andrews, Oregon, July 1st, 1906.

PAULINE: And who was your father?

MARJORIE: And my father was George A. Smyth, Jr.

PAULINE: And who was your mother?

MARJORIE: And my mother was Fannie Elizabeth Claybrook.

PAULINE: B R O O K ?

MARJORIE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Okay. Was she a Harney County native too?

MARJORIE: No, she came from the east.

PAULINE: Do you remember about when she came out, or why --- did she come as a child, or with her family?

MARJORIE: Oh, she came after she was married the first time.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: And --- I joined the family of three half-brothers and two half-sisters, and two full brothers.

PAULINE: And what was their family name?

MARJORIE: Huffman.

PAULINE: Huffman.

MARJORIE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Well your father was born in Harney County and ---

MARJORIE: Uh, no my father was born in --- I just draw a blank, and I know too.

PAULINE: We can come back to it later.

MARJORIE: Junction City, Oregon.

PAULINE: Junction City.

MARJORIE: Uh huh. And his father was a teacher there in Junction City.

PAULINE: Well then how are you related to the original Smyth family that came in, in the very earliest days?

MARJORIE: My --- the Smyth's came through Harney County in 1853, and my father's father, my grandfather was John T. Smyth, or John Smyth. And my grandmother was Candice Zumwalt.

PAULINE: How do you spell that?

MARJORIE: Z U M W A L T. And, my great-grandfather was George Smyth, and my great-grandmother was Margaret Dance Smyth. And they come through; they came through Harney County in 1853, and came back in 1871 to '72. And then of course you know the uprising, the Indian War, and ---

PAULINE: They first settled out about where Edward --- Snow Mountain Pine is now, by those hot springs, and then moved on down into Happy Valley.

MARJORIE: Yes, and Diamond. There was nine, there was nine children in the family. There was --- Dad had Aunt Sarah, she married a Riddle, and Aunt Josephine married Jack Sheppard, and they lived in Happy Valley. And then he had Aunt Ann Cummins,

she was Smyth, Margaret Ann. She married Chauncy Cummins.

PAULINE: That was C U M M I N ---

MARJORIE: S.

PAULINE: S.

MARJORIE: And they lived in Diamond.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: And then Aunt Jane, she married John Smyth, and they lived in Diamond. I don't know just where, but they lived there. And then there was --- let's see, did I say Dad's father, I did, didn't I? Yeah.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: There was Rye, Darius, and he married Penelope Minot. And then there was a young girl, I don't know just when this occurred, but she was 16 and she just disappeared. And her name was Elizabeth, they called her Lizzy. And they never could find her. Rye and Uncle Bub, well that was George too, there was another George Smyth that married Cassey Seaward. That was my dad's uncle. And Pres Smyth, and he finally married a widow by the name of Louise --- Eloise Newton, I think it was. And, but Uncle Bub, they called him Bub, and Rye they went down into San Francisco, they thought that maybe someone had stolen her and the white slave trading, you know. And then they went into Indian camps; they thought maybe the Indians might have took her. But she disappeared completely. They never heard from her again. And let's see, there was John; and Rye; and Sarah; and Jane; and Lizzy --- Elizabeth; and Margaret Ann, Aunt Ann; and Josephine; and George, Bub; and Pres, now that's nine isn't it?

PAULINE: Uh huh, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven --- how do you spell Pres?

MARJORIE: P R E S L E Y. It was Presley.

PAULINE: Presley. Okay.

MARJORIE: Was that nine?

PAULINE: How did, it was Darius, but how did Rye spell his name? Was it R Y E, or did he go by R I ?

MARJORIE: Well, they spelled, people spelled it both ways. But I always spelled it, and thought it was spelled R Y E. 'Cause it was Darius, you know, D A R I U S.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARJORIE: And Dad's --- my father's grandfather --- let's see, the family came, and originally Thomas came from Kentucky. No, not Kentucky, Virginia. And then they settled in Missouri. It's kind of hard for me off hand to just ---

PAULINE: That's all right, you know, I just needed to get kind of how you fit in. And how old was your dad when he came to Harney County?

MARJORIE: Well, let's see ---

PAULINE: Just about, it doesn't have to be ---

MARJORIE: Well wait a minute; he was born in 1871, I think.

PAULINE: Well, he would have been just a baby then, wouldn't he have been?

MARJORIE: No, he was 7 years old when his father and grandfather was killed in the Indian uprising. And his sister Margaret Donegan, Aunt Maggie Donegan, was about 5. And then Uncle John, and then there was a baby Frankie ---

PAULINE: Okay.

MARJORIE: --- drowned in Diamond, in a creek there in Diamond. And then Uncle John would have been about 3. And grandmother was pregnant when her husband and father-in-law was killed. And then Uncle Charlie was born in July. See, they were killed in ---

PAULINE: 1878.

MARJORIE: April, wasn't it?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: And he was born in July, that same year. And he took the name of Rigdon, but he was a doctor, chiropractor in --- Dr. Charles Rigdon they called him. But he was really a Smyth.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: But she married, later married Mr. Rigdon.

PAULINE: Well wasn't Maggie Donegan the first white child born in Harney County?

MARJORIE: Yes. Uh huh. That --- in here, uh huh.

PAULINE: Uh huh. I don't know about your family then, as I thought I did.

MARJORIE: Maybe more than I do.

PAULINE: Well, maybe, I doubt that. But anyway --- What about your immediate family? Did you have brothers and sisters?

MARJORIE: Well, when I was born I had three half-brothers, and two half-sisters, and two brothers. And then later, over two years later, I had a sister Lucille, full sister. So I came into a big family.

PAULINE: Are any of these people living still?

MARJORIE: I have a half-sister living, Nellie Sherman, she is 91. And I have a full brother living, Clifford Smyth, in Alaska. And a sister living, Lucille, my younger sister, Lucille Thornburg.

PAULINE: How old is Lucille then, she'd be ---

MARJORIE: Lucille would be 78.

PAULINE: Is she going to be here for Pioneer Days?

MARJORIE: Yes, they plan on coming.

PAULINE: I'd like to interview her while she's here.

MARJORIE: She and her husband both were born in Harney County.

PAULINE: Are they going to be here a few days, or are they going to be ---

MARJORIE: Yes, they'll be here a few days. Uh huh. I think they're coming the 10th, because they reserved a room at the motel --- because this small trailer, you know. And I'll have some family too, I guess, but ---

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: So they --- I was going to reserve a room for them, but they did. And they will be here for a while, so you'll probably get to.

PAULINE: Where are they living now?

MARJORIE: They live in Cedar Hills ---

PAULINE: California?

MARJORIE: No, out of Portland.

PAULINE: Out of Portland.

MARJORIE: It's out of --- it's close to Beaverton, but their address is Portland.

PAULINE: Okay. Well, you must have had --- it must have really been fun growing up in Andrews as a child.

MARJORIE: Well, I had a very carefree, happy childhood. And we rode horseback, and we made --- we danced a lot, and I had, our home was always open to all the young people, and so we had lots of friends come. My mother always said that she would rather that --- some of them were saying to her, "How can you stand to have all those neighbor's children all the time?" She says, "Well I--- when they come, and my children are here, I know where my children are." And so that was the reason she liked to have them come. But it was really a lot of fun.

And then we had an organ, and my mother would play the organ and we'd all get around and sing, just the family, 'cause there was so many of us. Later my two half-sisters, Nellie Sherman and Stella --- well she was McDade, then they were Calderwood, still a McDade, Calderwood.

PAULINE: Oh, Calderwood, I didn't realize that she was your ---

MARJORIE: They went to Sister's School in Boise, and they learned to play the organ and the piano, so then they used to play. And

PAULINE: Let's see, while we're right here; let's get the names of your three half-brothers.

MARJORIE: Willie H. Huffman, Norman B. Huffman, Clyde Huffman.

PAULINE: And they are all deceased?

MARJORIE: Yes, Clyde died when he was 18.

PAULINE: Uh huh. And ---

MARJORIE: And Nellie, she first married an Algard, Nellie Huffman Algard, and then she married Sherman. Her name is Sherman now. Or --- Stella first, Stella McDade, and then she was married Calderwood.

PAULINE: Uh huh. And then Nellie.

MARJORIE: Uh huh. Nellie Algard, and then she married Sherman. That's the name she goes by now.

PAULINE: Okay. And ---

MARJORIE: Then Johnny Adam Smyth --- or Johnny A. Smyth, just put --- And James Clifford Smyth. S M Y T H.

PAULINE: And then he's --- Yes, both is S M Y T H. I know that, but the person who transcribes the tape might not. And he's in Alaska now.

MARJORIE: No, Clifford is. Yes, Clifford, that's what you said, James Clifford, yes.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARJORIE: And myself of course, and then Lucille.

PAULINE: Lucille, okay.

MARJORIE: Thornburg.

PAULINE: Did you have very far to walk to school?

MARJORIE: No, we had --- my parents was always very concerned about the schools, so they built a little schoolhouse on their property there, just below where the store was. And it was a one-room school with no clothes closets; you hung your coat and hat on a nail. And a water bucket that was, had a dipper in it, and everybody drank out of the same dipper.

And the teachers would board with us. Sometimes they would board --- 'cause teachers didn't get much pay in those days. So sometimes they'd board for just the --- they would help in the hotel for just their room and board, you know. Wait tables or do something. And ---

PAULINE: Your parents ran the Andrews Hotel?

MARJORIE: Yes, they had --- it was the Smyth Brothers, the Smyth Hotel they called it.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: And it had, it was a big hotel. It had about 21 bedrooms, and an office and living quarters in the back, and a pool hall. But it burned in 1924. They sold and moved to Fields in 1921, they sold it and we moved to Fields. And the hotel burnt down that coldest year I think that we had on record, 1924. Supposed to have been sixty in Catlow Valley.

PAULINE: Below?

MARJORIE: Uh huh. That's what I heard. I, you know, it's just hearsay with me, but that's what I --- I know it was very cold because we had gone to a dance there, and the little Ford cars was outside, and they'd frozen and the radiators had bursted, and the ice was pouching out through the radiators. So it was cold!

PAULINE: That's cold.

MARJORIE: Yes, it was cold.

PAULINE: Well weren't some people hurt or died in that fire?

MARJORIE: They had the fire and Lloyd Sweeney and Gladys Sweeney, his wife, she was a cousin of my husband's and also --- well her mother was a cousin of my dad's too. But they, he was in the up-stairs bedroom --- Harrold was the son, and his little boy, he was sleeping. They'd put him to sleep in a bedroom upstairs. And when they said fire, why Lloyd rushed through and run up the stairs right through the fire and he got in the room and got the baby. And someone was outside, and he slipped him out through, and they caught him. But Lloyd's ears were burned. He was burned terrible, just terrible.

PAULINE: But he lived.

MARJORIE: He lived, uh huh. But that was Harrold --- they spelled it H A R R O L D. And he's still, he's alive, but his father is gone.

PAULINE: How old were you when you moved to Fields?

MARJORIE: Well, I was 15.

PAULINE: Did you go --- and then you went to school there?

MARJORIE: I went --- no I never went to school in Fields. I went to school in Andrews, and in Portland and stayed with my grandmother. And I went to school in Winnemucca. And my sister and I went to school in Fresno, California, in a boarding school, my sister Lucille. And then we went to Reno to school.

PAULINE: In San Francisco?

MARJORIE: No, Reno.

PAULINE: No, in California.

MARJORIE: Fresno.

PAULINE: Fresno. I started to write Fresno, and then --- okay. And then you went to Reno.

MARJORIE: Yes.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARJORIE: I, I helped a little in the store at Andrews, but when I went to Fields, when I wasn't going to school, then I just --- it was a full time job. I worked in the store; I did the bookkeeping. I did the quarterlies for the post office. And I took care of the, you know, clerking, and all around about --- at Fields.

PAULINE: At the Fields Store.

MARJORIE: General ---

PAULINE: Did your parents run that too?

MARJORIE: Yes, that was G. and J. Smyth.

PAULINE: G. and J. Smyth.

MARJORIE: They went down there to try to --- the man that was running it had got it in, \$30,000 in debt. And they went down to try to straighten it out.

PAULINE: Is that the same building that's there now, that says established in 1891?

MARJORIE: That was burned down too. But the first store building they had was a big wooden building. And they had a man running it by the name of Jack McCarty. And he had a wooden leg. And then later they built the rock building.

PAULINE: That's that little --- that's still standing.

MARJORIE: No, no it's not standing, it's all been hauled away. And it was a big building. And then we fixed living quarters upstairs, above it. There was, there was also a hotel that was quite a little ways from the store. I don't know just how far, maybe a hundred yards or something like that. And --- let's see, what was I going to say --- and then, and they also kept boarders when they'd come by too, you know. And sometimes I would do that too; I'd help that way because my mother and my sister would go up on the mountain. They had a homestead up there and they was proving out on it. And then we hit --- you

see we were getting into the depression.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: And there was no water, no feed, no money. So, it was hard.

PAULINE: Sounds like this year.

MARJORIE: And we --- well I remember my poor father saying, "Well maybe if we could just get five cents for our steers." But ---

PAULINE: That would be five cents a pound.

MARJORIE: Yes, uh huh. They sent quite a few cattle back with, back to Omaha. I think it was Omaha with --- the name doesn't come to my mind, and I know it just as well as I know my own. But he took; he contracted cattle and took them back. All they got was a bill for feed, because he couldn't, there was just no, the market had just went --- gone, you know. Well that was a time when a lot of businessmen were jumping out of six and seven story windows.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: 'Cause they had lost all their money. But we didn't do anything like that. We struggled through. I would have to say that I think my father was about the best teacher I ever had. He was really good, real sharp man.

PAULINE: No, it's strange you said that. I was, just interviewed Mary Pengelly, who is retired from teaching at the grade school this year, and she just said to me that good parents are teachers. And that ---

MARJORIE: That's true.

PAULINE: --- and that the schools can't do it all. If the parents don't teach their children, the schools can't do it all.

MARJORIE: And that's what is sad about, some parents can't teach. Well I learned a lot in the post office and store. 'Course I learned a lot in school too. But I think my hobbies

was horseback riding, and dancing, and I liked to play tennis. I tried to play a little basketball in Winnemucca. And all the girls was about 6 feet tall, and I didn't know what they were doing up there, except once in awhile I would get knocked down. (Laughter) So, I took up tennis.

PAULINE: So you took up tennis.

MARJORIE: I felt a little safer with a racket in my hand, and playing one to one. (Laughter) I really enjoyed that. But they were wonderful players, those girls though. Just really, and beautiful girls. But, you know, when they're tall like that, you can't ---

PAULINE: Well, you're not that tall.

MARJORIE: No, I was --- I didn't know what they were doing up there. (Laughter) But ---

PAULINE: Did you go to college, or just through high school?

MARJORIE: No, I never went to college. I took business courses in Reno. And so I did the typing for the store, and made out the bills at the end of the month, and helped mark the stuff, and clean the shelves. Just all around work, you know.

Learned to cook very early. My mother believed in a --- the boys and all of us learned to cook. She taught all of us. My brothers were just as good a cooks as we were.

So we --- And then, see I don't know --- was there any more that you wanted me to say?

PAULINE: Well, I was just listening to you talk, you were doing just great.

MARJORIE: Oh, oh no. It's a little hard for me sometimes, because I'll want to think of a date or a name, and it just goes.

PAULINE: Oh I know, I'm not good at keeping that kind of thing in my mind. And really, what I like to hear are the way things happened, and what you felt about things, and what things, how things were. And you're doing just what I need you to do.

MARJORIE: Well, thank you. I don't know whether, you know ---

PAULINE: When did you meet Andrew?

MARJORIE: Well, I met Andrew about --- I'd seen Andrew when I was a child there at Andrews, just one time. And I was going to tell you though this about, always seemed funny to my sister and I, we'd laugh yet. Maybe it won't be humorous to you, but it is to us because we went through it. But my father bought a Metz car. Did you ever hear of a Metz car?

PAULINE: No, is that M E T Z ?

MARJORIE: So --- it was one of those that, it had a fiber wheel.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: So we started out, we'd start out maybe to come to Burns. We didn't go a lot because, you know, it was hard to get away from the work and home and all. But we were coming to Burns, and we would go up this Juniper Grade and here would, my dad would say, "I think one of those wheels have burnt out." So he'd have to get out --- and stink, they'd smell, you know. And he'd have to get out and put another fiber wheel on. Then we'd go a little ways further and another one would burn out. And my sister and I was really sick, car sick from that smell and all that. And we stayed at Mann's at night, and then to come on to Burns. Took us two days even with the car. But we laugh yet about how dad would say, "Well I guess, have to put on another one of those wheels." (Laughter) And how sick we got, about that Metz car.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARJORIE: And no wonder they didn't sell very many of them. (Laughter) I don't think they ---

PAULINE: Sounds like you had to have a trailer load of wheels in the, with you.

MARJORIE: We did. Of course that Juniper Grade was a real steep grade.

PAULINE: Now that grade, where exactly is that grade?

MARJORIE: Well that's after you leave, it's before you get to Folly Farm.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARJORIE: On the, you know there is kind of a lake there.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: Ten Cent Lake, well it's right on that, right near that, you see. You see it as you're coming down Juniper Grade, you see Ten Cent Lake.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARJORIE: And my dad used to say, well I'd hear the folks talking about that they didn't know how deep that lake was. That it was supposed to be real deep. And then you know we had the drought and the depression, and that lake dried up and there was wagon ---

PAULINE: Wheels.

MARJORIE: --- tracks across it. So ---

PAULINE: It wasn't ---

MARJORIE: --- it had been dried up before.

PAULINE: Uh huh. And it wasn't as deep as ---

MARJORIE: No, they didn't know, you know.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: But, a ---

PAULINE: Do you know about what year that was that he had the Metz car? Be the --- the depression you said, be about 1930?

MARJORIE: Well the depression was on, but it wasn't quite so bad when we had the Metz. He was able to drive a car that year. But

PAULINE: Sounds like maybe closer to '35 maybe, '34, '35.

MARJORIE: No, no, see it was --- I think that --- my sister, I was about 12 and my sister about 10. 1906 and 12, would be about 1918 then, about 1920, '18, 1918. It was way

before '20, because I wasn't very old.

PAULINE: Okay. About 1980 --- 1918!

MARJORIE: Yeah, 10, see I was born in 1906, and 10, about 1916, I think. Uh huh.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARJORIE: And, well you know if he could have saved that it would be an antique now.

PAULINE: Oh, probably a real rare ---

MARJORIE: But he was really glad to get rid of it. (Laughter) 'Course we rode in buggies, or wagons, and rode horseback. Because in those --- before he got the, the first car that my father had was a Buick. And it was, we were real small then. It was a red Buick, and it didn't have doors, it just had an opening on the side. And it had a horn that you just pressed down on, and it didn't use any electricity or anything. But, ah, I don't know what year that was either, that was in probably about 1912, or something like that.

PAULINE: How did Andrews get its name?

MARJORIE: Well, the first postmaster, they usually called Andrews all the time that I was a child, everybody called it Wildhorse. Even after it was named Andrews, they called it Wildhorse. And Andrews got its name because; this is what my dad told me. I said, "I didn't like them to call it Wildhorse." Because so many of them would get to drinking and they'd say, well what's going on at Wildhog, and I didn't like that hog, Wildhog. So I said to Dad, "Why do they call it Wildhog and Wildhorse, when it's Andrews?" And he said, "Well because the first postmaster was Pete Andrews." And he had a post office, started; he started the post office at

--- it was about 3 miles below where the present Andrews was. And I have the copy of him getting signatures and starting it. And then, then a lady by the name of Maggie Scoubes, S C O U B E S, she had it for about 3 years. And then my dad had it. Then my dad got it in 1901. So Scoubes was, Scoubes was, lived about; I would say about 6 miles

below Andrews. And, but it was because--- so when I asked my father ---

SIDE B

PAULINE: Okay, we're ready with side two. And you were telling us, that when you asked your father why the name was Andrews instead of Wildhorse.

MARJORIE: Why that people kept calling it Wildhorse when it was Andrews, and he said, "Well in the early days it was called Wildhorse." And then when he became postmaster, he and his brother, Uncle John Smyth, decided that they would like to keep the name Andrews, because Peter Andrews was the first, one of the first settlers in that part of the country. And they had the option to name it whatever they wanted, but that was what they kept the name.

PAULINE: Uh huh. And you said that Mr. Andrews ran a dairy.

MARJORIE: And Pete Andrews in a transcript, in about --- when he had a lawsuit on the water, or a deal to prove our water right. Why it said that Peter Andrews was one of the first settlers in that part, and he ran a dairy and sold butter, and cheese, and milk to the Chinamen at, or the Chinese workers at the borax lake. My niece said the Chinese don't use milk. But his was right on the transcripts, so I'm sure that was true.

But --- well I met Andrew, I saw him the first time when I was about 10 years old at Andrews. He stayed all night there. He'd come down from Riddles for supplies. And he was just a young man then too. And then after he had moved to Fields, I met him again about, oh I'd say about 19--- about 1927, or something like that. Let's see, say 1926. And then we started going together about 1929.

PAULINE: And when were you married?

MARJORIE: And we were married in 1931, February the 25th, in Los Angeles, California. And we visited with our dear friends Alice and Luth Tudor, and we had really a nice, we

had a very nice ---

PAULINE: Luth --- Luth?

MARJORIE: L U T H, Luther Tudor, T U D O R.

PAULINE: That's Alice Johnston today.

MARJORIE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: And we had a nice time, we went down to Agua Caliente. Went to the Oasis. While we were there we saw Mattie and --- Oh, I can't think of that last name. Anyway, they had racehorses, and they used to have the store at Lawen.

PAULINE: Alice was quite a lover of horses, she told me she liked --- she used to ride the racehorse there.

MARJORIE: Oh, I loved horses too. And I had a little horse named Spooks. And he had feet almost like a little mule. We never did shoe him, and he could just run over rocks and everything. But he was spooky. He'd upset you if he saw something that scared him, or he'd try to. Yeah, I liked horses too.

Well, you know, it was --- that was mostly what our transportation was, was horses. You ether rode, or drove a buggy, or walked. And the folks had big freight teams, you know, and freight wagons. And they'd haul their freight in from Ontario, Oregon, or Vale. And also sometimes they'd also go as far as LaGrande.

PAULINE: Did the Chinese people at the borax works come into Andrews or Fields much?

MARJORIE: No ---

PAULINE: Or did they pretty much stay to themselves?

MARJORIE: No, I never remember them. I remember the little houses across the lake, that was their houses. And it was just one room, and they had a door in it. I don't

remember whether they had a window in it or not.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: But, I remember seeing them. Because we used to go down there and visit Mrs. Algard.

PAULINE: The Algards were in charge of the ---

MARJORIE: Yes, it belonged to Taylor and Fulton first, and Mr. Algard was a chemist. Christian Algard, C. S. Algard was a chemist, and he perfected some ways to save more of the borax. And he patented some things there, if I remember. I was just a child, I don't remember too much about it. But then he was the one that bought it later, and owned it. And then it, borax became too cheap and they discontinued.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: But ---

PAULINE: Well when you became, you and Andrew Shull were married then, and you ranched then in the area. He had a ranch?

MARJORIE: Well it was in the depression when we got married. We borrowed \$500 to go on our trip. And then I stayed at Fields for a while after my brother-in-law and sister --- That's Lucille and Arthur Thornburg, they bought the store from my folks. And well, the folks were getting old, and it was the depression, and it was getting so much, too much for them.

And I remember Alice sent word that there was an opening in an office up here, a lawyer's office as secretary, and that she was sure I could have it if I wanted to come in. And I talked it over with them, and they said, "Oh Marjorie, don't leave us, we just depend on you so much." So I said, "Well, I won't," you know. And I stayed there with them, and I never regretted it.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: But I also --- we talked it over and it was getting so hard for them, and nobody was paying them, it was depression. So Polly and Lucille they took it over, and they gave them a real good deal, and they took it over and they stayed there for about --- I don't remember, not too many years, about 5 I guess. And then I stayed and helped Polly for a little while, and then we moved to Andrews. We moved back to Andrews in 1934, and that was, my oldest boy was born --- Gregory, and --- or Greg.

And my mother and I went up on my homestead. I had filed on a homestead before we were married. And so we went up on the homestead and stayed, the baby and my mother and I. And stayed there all summer, and then we lived at Andrews in --- let's see, well in kind of a make-do. It was a place really where I was born, but a lot of the building had been taken away, and it was just one or two parts of it there. And I got, I was appointed postmaster. I worked in the post office with this Joe Lauserica, (corrected to Lauserica) or Joe, yeah Joe Lauserica. And then ---

PAULINE: How did you spell his name, Lauserica?

MARJORIE: L A U S I R I C A.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARJORIE: Or S A. Which was it, L A U R I S ---

PAULINE: I think it has to be a C.

MARJORIE: Uh huh. And I don't think, I think he was just acting; I don't think he was postmaster. But anyway, I was appointed postmaster in 1933, and I held it, the position for 33 years.

And during the war I wrote out lots of bonds. And the typewriter, I'd work at those bonds at night by a kerosene light, and my typewriter would go on, I don't know, it was a little hard. But my husband would go up on the mountain after the --- riding after the cattle, and he would take applications for bonds. So I sold a lot of bonds. And then at Fields

Mrs. Doan, we had a rally, a dance, and we both sold bonds all night. So, we did that.

And we would --- rented, or my husband leased the cattle after my father died, passed away. My husband Andrew leased the cattle from my mother, and then later bought them. And we had a small store of --- general merchandise store. We sold everything from flour to overalls, and all kinds of hardware. The reason, I know the reason, I know the reason too, that being in the store, that helped me, was being in that store so long and working there. It was no object, or it was no, you know, what would you say, difficulty for me to get credit from the wholesalers because I knew every one of them so well. And so they gave us credit. Otherwise we couldn't have started the store, because my husband had lost his cattle before we were married, and it was tight. But ---

PAULINE: Well, people had to be survivors.

MARJORIE: Yes, they did. And one man asked me, he said, "Why did your family," my folks, you know, and then us too through the depression, "why did you stay there?" And I said, "Well, when you have roots, you have a little property even if it isn't worth much, you stay." You know, what do you do? It was just as bad somewhere else.

And so --- Then we built a rock building, it's there now, called the store, and post office, and had living quarters in one side. And my Uncle John gave us the land to build it on. He gave us 5 acres that he had there. And we had about --- we run --- bought --- at first we didn't but then after Andrew bought the cows, and then he sold those and got some more, we run about 200 head of cows. From a 150 to 200 head of cattle. And we had 300 head of ewes.

And it was the family operation, that the children just as soon as they got old enough to work, they all helped. Outside of a getting maybe a couple people to help us with the hay, why the children and Andrew put up the hay, you know. Our daughter, she pulled, she rode a horse and pullback the net, you know. And then later we got, why we

got a hydro-motor. We had about --- well we cut, first we didn't cut so much hay, and then he got hold of a little more land and we cut about 300 to 400 ton of hay. But with the BLM, they really put us out. Because they just kept, kept after us, you know, and trespassing and this and that. We had about 3,000 acres of deeded and, and we leased 3,000 acres of land from the state. So we had about 6,000 acres, we were --- We had a wonderful meadow. Then we sold ---

Let's see, what else should I tell you. Andrew loved to prospect, and we both, and I enjoyed it too. And any time we could get away, we would do a little prospecting. And --
-

PAULINE: Did you file any claims?

MARJORIE: Yes, we filed claims, and we even had some contracts with some big outfits, but they just moved away, you know. And Andrew was really good at prospecting. He could just tell you almost what minerals would be in that, in the formation of the earth. He liked that.

PAULINE: Now you had Greg and Gloria. Were there other children?

MARJORIE: We had Greg, he was born in 1932.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARJORIE: And George was born in 1934.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARJORIE: And Gloria Ann was born in 1941. And I think I made a mistake there about '34.

PAULINE: You said Gregory's was in '32.

MARJORIE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And how old was --- when George was born?

MARJORIE: Well, '34, but what I was meaning, I said something about when we moved

into the rock building. No, the homestead, when we moved, when my mother and I went up to homestead, it was in 19---

PAULINE: '34, not '24. Wait a minute here, yeah.

MARJORIE: What did I say?

PAULINE: You said '24. And that was 1934 when you moved back to Andrews, when Greg was born.

MARJORIE: Ah, 1932 was when Greg was born.

PAULINE: 1932.

MARJORIE: So that's when we moved back to Andrews.

PAULINE: Yeah. Okay. 1932.

MARJORIE: Uh huh. So, I made a mistake on that.

PAULINE: What's Gloria Ann's last name now?

MARJORIE: Hull. She just dropped the "S". (Laughter) H U L L.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARJORIE: And ---

PAULINE: Ah, Greg is going to read your history.

MARJORIE: George.

PAULINE: George is going to read your history. Is he, where does he live now?

MARJORIE: He lives in Lake Oswego.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARJORIE: And Gloria Ann lives in Mount Lake Terrace, Washington. And Greg lives in Hines.

PAULINE: Okay. And how many grandchildren do you have?

MARJORIE: I have five. George has three daughters. George and Lois have three daughters. And Gloria Ann and Fred have two sons. I think they'll be here too, I'm hoping

so.

PAULINE: Two sons?

MARJORIE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Okay. And Fred is his name?

MARJORIE: Yes, Fred. Fred Hull.

PAULINE: Okay. Oh, I haven't seen Gloria for so long, it's been years. Is she still tall and ---

MARJORIE: Oh, yes.

PAULINE: --- and black hair.

MARJORIE: She's, she's not as tall as lots of the girls are now, but she is taller than I am. And yes, she still has, she just has her hair very plain. She never has had a permanent, you know. But it isn't quite as curly as it used to be.

PAULINE: Well, she is such a beautiful girl in high school.

MARJORIE: Well she has aged, you know, too. (Laughter)

PAULINE: Well, we all do that.

MARJORIE: Well let's see, she's 46, 46. But she's getting along fine. She works as a teacher's aide. She graduated from College of Idaho, and her two majors was in elementary education and social services. And she just thought she wanted to do the social services because she got such good grades on that, but it wasn't for her. So --- then she finally got --- she did some work --- Took care of a policeman --- chief of police got shot, and he was paralyzed and she took care of him over there for awhile after she got out of school. But then she --- then when she got married why she just started raising a family.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: But she's quite a girl. Children are a joy. They were a joy to us, and a

responsibility too. And we were out there where schools were not easy, you know. I sent them to my brothers to go, so they could go to school, and like that.

One year, during the war, we had a lady come for school, and she had been working in the shipyards. And she was quite elderly and she started school. And one day she was gone, and took the keys and everything with her. She went back to the shipyards. She said it was more work, or more money. She just pulled out. So then we, then I sent them away to Ashland. And then we sent them down to Fields for a couple weeks with my brother Clifford and his wife Kathleen. She was a teacher, she was teaching at Fields. And sent them into Burns, and they stayed with Johnny and Grace Smyth. And then I boarded them with different people, Mrs. Houston. Gloria Ann stayed with Mrs. Houston. And it was quite a problem. And it was a problem for my folks, that's why they were so --- And they gave the school an acreage there so they --- where the new school is built. Andrew and my brother was on the board, and they worked real hard at getting that school built. Because that was in the depression. And then Charlie Cawfield built it, and it was built for \$5,000. And you couldn't touch it now for ---

PAULINE: No. And it's --- they're still using it.

MARJORIE: It's still there. And they built on a back to it, was teacher's quarters for a while. Then they built a teacherage. But the building itself, the first main building for \$5,000 you couldn't touch it, you know. But Charlie Cawfield came out and built that. Then also Claude Brown was a carpenter. And that was in about 1936 and '37, I think, that that was built. So we always believed in schools too, you know. But sometimes you do what you do.

And the kids all helped their dad ranch; he rode with their dad a lot. And the boys helped, and they all helped in haying. She helped with the sheep, she was our sheepherder. And we raised a garden, and had a milk cow, and I made butter and

cheese, and homemade bread, and apple pies, and ---

PAULINE: Sounds pretty good.

MARJORIE: We had chickens, we had our own eggs. We, and we had mutton, you know. We had a lot. We raised a lot of things there for ourselves.

PAULINE: That's one thing about, you know ---

MARJORIE: You can save a lot on a ranch if you want to, you know.

PAULINE: And you might not have indoor plumbing, or ---

MARJORIE: Oh, we had --- we didn't have indoor plumbing.

PAULINE: Well no, while I was --- 10 and 11 before we had indoor plumbing. And we were only what, four miles, not quite four miles out of Burns.

MARJORIE: I know.

PAULINE: But, you know, you can raise your own food.

MARJORIE: Well you see when the electricity came to Andrews we were, we signed up for that right away to try to get it there. And it was quite a, a couple of years before we got it even after --- with that. And that's --- we had a, we did finally get a light plant. But we had kerosene lights, carbide lights, gaslights, and they were not very satisfactory. But then they were better than, you know, we kept trying to get a little better.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: And ---

PAULINE: Well the REA, Harney Electric Co-op came in, in about 1957, '58, '59. About '58, wasn't it?

MARJORIE: Well I know they came to Diamond before they came down there, and it was about two years after it had been in Diamond. And oh, it seemed so nice to be able to flip on the switch. And to have an in --- and then later we got an indoor plumbing, it was really nice.

Because, I would, well like the boys when they, when we'd get a teacher, and then maybe she'd quit and --- Like Mrs. Wallace, she taught for a while. But she married Al Wallace, had this ranch on Trout Creek, and she hadn't taught for a year, and so she closed school early so she could go home and get her garden in and everything. So I sent the boys then down to Fields. And I tried to teach them a little myself. You can't teach and run a store and post office. I'd start with them, and I'd go in there, and maybe I'd be in there, in the store writing out money orders, or selling gas and groceries, and they'd be gone when I'd get back in there. And --- of course, it just didn't work.

PAULINE: No, I could see where it wouldn't.

MARJORIE: You just can't do it, unless you could have a time that you could ---

PAULINE: No. Yeah, set aside for ---

MARJORIE: Say this, I'm not doing anything else but this, you know. But we were quite busy. For a while we had a good trade. And things had kinda started to getting a little better, because the first cattle we bought after my husband and I was married, Domingo Zabala had 7 head. And --- 11 head --- leaves me, I don't remember, 11 head I guess it was. And he was selling them cheap, and he went up and down --- he went to Winnemucca he told me, and he come up to Burns, and nobody would buy those cattle. And he was only asking \$25 a head.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: And I said to my dad, "Dad, what do you think about us buying those?" Domingo says that I can pay him just a little bit every month. And so then there was one milk cow in the outfit and --- Well Dad says, he looked at them and he said, "Well I tell you Marjorie," he said, "I think you'll come out alright, because I think you'll at least get \$45 for one steer." He looked at them, you know, he said this year, because they're coming up. And so I, we bought them. And I would send Domingo \$5 a month, \$10 a

month. That's the way we paid for them. But they gradually came up, you see. Then of course we leased Mama's cattle after Dad passed away. And oh, I ---

PAULINE: Well you didn't even have a telephone until much later.

MARJORIE: No, no, we finally, they put a, it's kind of like a walkie-talkie. What do they call those? They have them in, out in the forests, you know, where they have the fire watches, or fire fighters. And I would get, at a certain time I could go to that. It was a radio; radio wasn't it, radiotelephone? I could go to that, at a certain time and punch buttons and I could get Burns. I remember it was kind of a comfort to me when Johnny, my brother, got burned so badly. He was working out there on the airport. And he was over these men, you know, and he would go around and start these fires, and things, and it slopped upon his

--- caught him some way and he slipped and fell or something.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Which was Johnny that wrote that ---

MARJORIE: Yeah, that had the store, he nearly died, you know.

PAULINE: For heaven sakes, I didn't know that.

MARJORIE: He was burned so badly, and Jimmy Varien, I don't know just what kind of work he was doing, he would get on this phone at this end in Burns, and he would call me and tell me how Johnny was doing. And that way, you know, I just looked forward to getting that message. Because we were out there a long ways, and really worried about him.

PAULINE: Well, was Johnny working here on the airport?

MARJORIE: Yes.

PAULINE: Near Burns ---

MARJORIE: They had moved into Burns, and he was working on the airport out here. And he was working overtime, and this one man told me, he said, "Well," he said, "it's no

wonder he stumbled." Because he said, "I know he was worn out because he fell out of the pickup." And he said, "You know that's not Johnny, he's so agile." He was just tired, see.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: And he stumbled, and that gas flew up all over him, or kerosene, or whatever it was.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: He got awfully burned. But they had, they had a new way they were treating burns and they think that's what saved his life. The doctor didn't know whether he'd die.

PAULINE: Uh huh. I didn't ever --- heard, it didn't leave him scarred on his face.

MARJORIE: Well, after they started --- no. But see his body ---

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: --- his arms, and it burned the cords in some of his--- one of his arms. And after they started the store, he would get so nervous because he'd try to write sometimes, and he couldn't write, you know, because of that.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: He could finally do it, but it had taken so long and all, it would bother him.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: And he --- one day he spilled, dropped a bottle of Purex and it spilled all over his pants and he was so embarrassed. But see it just --- he dropped it. He couldn't hold onto it. But he was, well he did pretty good, to be so badly hurt, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARJORIE: Well he did remarkably well.

PAULINE: Well I knew he had that problem with the ---

MARJORIE: Well he worked in the mines in McDermitt and he got ... over there, you

know. And they had so much trouble, those people. Carol right now is having her jaws redone, you know.

PAULINE: Oh, really.

MARJORIE: From that accident.

PAULINE: After that accident. No, I didn't know about that.

MARJORIE: Uh huh. And Yvonne, you know, well ---

PAULINE: It sometimes happens that way with, some seem to get more than their share.

MARJORIE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARJORIE: Well, I don't think there's much that I would change with my life. I would still marry the same husband.

PAULINE: That's good.

MARJORIE: I would love to have the same children. And I couldn't change anybody for my parents. They were super!

PAULINE: Sounds like really you've had a good life.

MARJORIE: And I had a wonderful Uncle John, he was just like a second father. He was so good to us.

PAULINE: Well, we're about to the end of this tape, and I really appreciate your taking time ---

MARJORIE: Well, there's probably lots of things that I could tell you ---

PAULINE: Well, we may get to be able to get together again another day. I always have the hope that I'll come back and talk with ---

MARJORIE: Well I started in on the genealogy, and do you ever get frustrated with that, you know. You'll misspell a name, and they're pretty sure it was this person and then ---

PAULINE: It takes you back on a whole new trip.

MARJORIE: That's hard, isn't it?

PAULINE: Uh huh. Well this tape will go in the Oral History Project, and I should have brought a form down for you to sign. I forgot to do that today. But I'll stop back by and ---

MARJORIE: I'll sign it.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARJORIE: I'll sign it.

PAULINE: Okay. No big problem. But we like to have those.

MARJORIE: There was, there was --- well Andrew and I went up on the mountain and camped quite a lot. And after we sold, leased the place to Greg, we went up there and stayed, you know, and we'd watch the cattle and --- horseback, and took our pack horse. And we would go fishing, and we just had a pleasant time up there. And that's why when they say they want to turn that mountain into a wilderness area; I don't want it in the wilderness area. It is the most wilderness area I have ever seen.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: And you could camp up there. But now if they get it in the wilderness area, they're going to have ever so often, you're going to have to have someone looking down your shoulder, and you're going to say you can't camp here, you can't bring the horses there.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: And you could go up there and you felt so free.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

MARJORIE: Nobody bothered; even the people that had homesteads didn't care if you camped on them.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARJORIE: And there is quite a lot of open land too. Well I enjoyed that. And Andrew

of course loved it, he loved the mountain. He had a homestead in, I think it was Big Indian, and when he was --- passed away, we --- both of us signed a thing to be cremated. And so he was cremated and his ashes was --- Poor Greg, he went with me and he put the ashes out, you know. And he got so sick at his stomach; it just made him so upset. But ---

PAULINE: That's hard.

MARJORIE: It's hard. Oh hard, yeah it is hard. But ---

--

bl