

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #216 - Sides A/B

Subject: Denny Presley Interviews

Place:

Date: 1983-1986

Interviewer: Denny Presley

DENNY PRESLEY: We're with Eldon Presley, or Cyc Presley, and he's going to talk a little bit about what he knows about prohibition times. And the first thing that you talk about is what, Ches Carter who lived next door to you here?

ELDON "CYC" PRESLEY: Yeah, he was kind of a bootlegger, and he had a bunch of hiding places concealed, and they stored their booze in there. And the first time that --- Ray and Mabel Weeks lived next door there, and the first time they knew any was there that, she had this horrible smell, and they got some people down there to look to see where that smell was coming from, and there was rats in that hiding place. And they found that hiding place under the sink. And they also had some hiding place under their front steps, and the back steps. And that's about all about that.

DENNY: Now you said something about, we were talking earlier on a story about whenever the pro-highs, as Mike Larraneta called them, came to Crane that the, everybody in Crane would take and hide their booze.

CYC: Yeah, the prohibition guys would come down there, they're federal guys, and people down there would get a tip off that they were coming, so they would take all their -- - the people selling booze and beer, they'd take it all out in the sagebrush and hide it. And us kids used to go out there and find it, and of course we'd kind of resell it to guys like Elby Turner, and some of those guys. And the way you would find it, you'd, sometimes

we'd be up on the hill watching them, and other times you'd just go out and down one of them old roads, the old Model-T roads, and out in the sagebrush, and see a track going down there, and watch on both sides of the road, you went along, and see where a man had got out a foot, and just follow his tracks out there in the sagebrush and you might find a five gallon keg or a ten gallon keg, or a bunch of one gallons. And we'd take them back to town, of course, and resell them.

DENNY: You were about how old at that time, 15?

CYC: Yeah, younger than that.

DENNY: Younger than that?

CYC: Yeah, I was about 12.

DENNY: You had a dog named Vic. Now what was so different about him?

CYC: Well he was just a Chesapeake Bay dog, and of course he was always friends with the kids and he could smell booze. And they'd have them dances out there at the old Majestic Hall, and of course they weren't allowed any booze, and all the guys that was at the dance, like Elby Turner, and them other guys would take their booze out behind and hide it in the sagebrush. Well us kids would be around there, and of course we'd tell old Vic to go get a bottle, and he could understand what you wanted him to do, and he'd go out there and he'd smell around in the sagebrush and he'd come back with a pint, or a flask, or whatever. And one time he was out there and getting a bottle for us kids, and he stole old Elby Turner's bottle right out of his, while he was trying to get it too. The dog come back with it, and old Elby right behind him.

DENNY: (Laughter) Now you've said a lot of times that you resold that booze. You didn't drink it all, huh?

CYC: Oh no, we didn't drink hardly any of it. A beer or two, but we'd sell it to those guys like Elby Turner, and those guys. Used to sell a gallon to Elby Turner. I remember I had

several gallons in glass jugs, and I sold it to him for \$5 a gallon.

DENNY: (Laughter)

CYC: Pretty cheap booze.

DENNY: Now you were talking about some of the moonshiners. Of course there were moonshiners everywhere. And a lot of them were family name moonshiners. You're not going to mention them, but there were some that you do remember.

CYC: Yeah, Harry and John Briggon. They lived down on the other side of Alder Creek, up toward the Hunter Ranch there. What is known as the Hunter Ranch, and they both bootlegged.

DENNY: I remember Hilbert told me a story about when he worked on the railroad for Andy Cockrell, which is my mother's dad, and they went up to these, these two moonshiners to get some booze for the railroad crew.

CYC: Yeah, that was Harry and John Briggon.

DENNY: Yeah.

DENNY: We're with Joe Altnow here, and Joe you're going to tell us about your family ties back to when they came to the Harney Valley.

JOE ALTNOW: Well, Denny, my grandfather, John William Altnow, was born in Germany on June the 15th, 1935 (Editor note: I think he meant 1835.) and came to the United States in 1855. He came from Minnesota to Salem, Oregon in 1868, then to Antelope and Wasco County, now Wheeler County. Moved to Canyon City, and then he settled in Otis Valley, his home in 1881. He came to Otis Valley and looked it over in the year of '78 or '79, and lived in a cave part of that year. Then he started building ... Came from Canyon City, which was the nearest town at that time. Baker being the other closest. In '81 he moved his family to Otis Valley, and then in 1890 he was called upon to act as the first Commissioner of Harney County.

That ranch house was eleven rooms, two-story house, and it was painted white, and trimmed in blue and red for our flag. The lumber for the house all came from Canyon City. At that time the nearest railroad being Winnemucca, Nevada. Albert Altnow was born October 13, 1873, who was my father, at Antelope, Oregon. And he was 7 or 8 years old when he and his father first came to Otis Valley. Do you want any more, Denny?

DENNY: Well now Joe, everybody remembers that old Altnow house out there. I know I remember it well. And with those lakes it seemed like everybody in the country came out there and fished and swam. The Altnow house was quite a landmark, and it --- everybody remembers it, I'm sure. Now do you remember anything about --- Now Bill Altnow, not Bill, yeah Bill. Now Joe, there was two lakes there, now they weren't natural lakes were they?

JOE: No, they were manmade lakes. And the two lakes were fed by natural year round springs. They built the lakes with horses, and --- four-horse fresnos. And they broke about thirty head of horses each year that they worked on the lakes. And it took them two full summers to build the dams. After, each year they took these horses that they broke to Minnesota, and sold them back there. And my dad's brother, Bill Altnow, he would ride these horses back there and make them buck for the people, so they would get an idea of what it was like in the West.

These lakes are fed by these artificial --- these natural springs, and there's bass and bluegill in those lakes. The larger lake was about twenty-five feet deep, and a quarter --- semi-round, and it's about a quarter of a mile each way across it.

DENNY: The lakes were made for what, irrigation purposes?

JOE: Yes, the lakes were made for irrigation purposes. When my father's, when my grandfather came to the country, he visualized these lakes. There was nothing there but

springs, and he passed up all of the green part of the valley, and visualized how he could irrigate this land, and wash the alkali out of the ground, which he did to a great advantage.

When they were making these lakes, they used mining cars, that they had gotten from up around Baker and Canyon City. And they used these as those dump cars, and hooked these horses to them. And they had these horses well trained enough that they would take these cars, without a driver, down to whoever was on the other end. And they would dump the dirt, and then they would turn the horse around and he would pull the car back without anybody driving it.

DENNY: Now I can remember you telling me that they packed the dam down with just the horses walking back and forth on it.

JOE: That's right, Denny. And they lined the upper side of the dam with rock. And then to keep the muskrats and squirrels from digging into the dam, they gathered up all the bottles, whiskey bottles, from the saloons in Drewsey, and broke them on these rocks so that the muskrats wouldn't dig.

DENNY: Is that a common practice?

JOE: That was the only practice I ever knew of it happening, in my life, Denny.

DENNY: Now everybody knew Belle Altnow. Where did Albert meet Belle, and when?

JOE: Albert met my mother, Belle Altnow, in Westfall, Oregon. Her name was Claypool at that time, and they were married in 1910.

DENNY: When were you born, Joe?

JOE: I was born November the 4th, 1913. And I was born at the ranch by a Dr. Bartlett, that had taken his first year in school. And some say I was born on the dining room table. I don't know whether this is really true or not, but I was born at the ranch.

DENNY: Yeah, and you have a sister?

JOE: Yes, my sister, Mildred Jones, was born in 1912.

DENNY: Was she born on the dining room table too?

JOE: I don't think so. (Laughter) She never would admit it any-way, Denny.

DENNY: Well what do you remember of the town of Drewsey, Joe? Back in the days of when?

JOE: Well when I was about 4 years old, which would have been about in 1917, Drewsey was quite a town. I can't recall exactly how many saloons they had. I know they had at least three, because my Uncle Bill Altnow was a partner in one of them. And they had two livery stables; they had two or three hotels, which were modern at that time. And they had a fire department, and a police, a marshal of the town, and also they had a real modern jail. And that jail was located right close to the whorehouse, so that they could have easy availableness to either one of them. And the IOOF Hall was built in 1900, and it sat in the ---

DENNY: That's the Odd Fellows Hall?

JOE: Yes, the Odd Fellows Hall, Denny. And that sat in the middle part of town.

DENNY: Now the Odd Fellows Hall, and the jail is still there, isn't it?

JOE: Yes, the jail is still there, and they tore the Odd Fellows Hall down about three years ago, it was such a fire hazard. Then I can remember too, my dad telling about that a man was playing billiards in --- two men were playing billiards in Drewsey in one of the saloons, and one fellow picked up some fly paper and stuck it in this one man's face, and it made him quite mad and he whirled and hit this other fellow along side of the head with the pool stick and killed him. And so they went and got the doctor, and while the doctor was there he said, "Well we might as well see what happened." So they got a hammer and a chisel and they chiseled the top of his head off to take a good look at his brain. This is one of the things I can really remember about happening in Drewsey.

DENNY: And you asked me not to ask you why Drewsey got the name Gouge Eye, I

won't. It has nothing to do with Gouge Eye.

Now we are talking about horse and buggy days primarily, but we'll skip on up to the cars. When did your folks get their first car?

JOE: When Archie McGowan ordered his first cars for Burns, my father put in an order for a Model-T. And it must have been about the year of 1913 or '14 in there, and he met the train at Juntura and they unloaded this Model-T down there, and they showed my father how to drive it. Well when he got home he forgot how to stop it. And they had a board gate out, coming into the ranch, and when he got up to it he yelled, "Whoa, whoa!" And he probably yelled, "Stop, you S.B.'s." But the car went right on through the gate, but he did get it stopped before he got to the house.

DENNY: The car didn't know what whoa meant.

JOE: That's right.

DENNY: (Laughter) Probably pulled back on the reins too.

JOE: I guess so.

DENNY: Now he's more accustomed to horses, and they took a lot of horses to run a ranch.

JOE: That's right, Denny. And when haying come on they probably had 20 or 30 head of broke horses, because they usually changed teams at noon, and it took about seven or eight men at that time to hay. And where they used that many teams every day, why of course they broke lots of horses each year. Then the older horses, and the more gentle horses, why they took some place else and sold, and broke new ones most of the time.

DENNY: Now your family were of German descendants and they were quite good with wood.

JOE: Yes, and my grandfather was a real frugal man. He never allowed grass to be planted in the yard because it wasn't, you couldn't use it. And my grandmother had a,

quite a time getting even three threes planted around the yard. And then in haying time they had to grind the sickles, and they had a --- you had to pump the grinder by, with your feet. And one man held the sickle, and one man pumped the grinder. Well this took two men, so my grandfather, being as frugal as he was, he got the idea of a water wheel. So he put in a water wheel, which was really a unique piece of work. These balanced wheels, or big round wheels that they had put together, and this water wheel was probably twelve feet in diameter, and six feet wide, fed by the creek that came down by it all the time. And this way, I don't know what it must have cost him to build this water wheel, but this way at least he cut out one man's labor, because one man could sit there and grind all the sickles.

DENNY: Now the house, the old house, we'll go back to it for a second, now it was different than most houses in what way?

JOE: Well it was made of three-board construction. Most of the houses in those days was just one board. But this house had three-board construction throughout, and all the doors were handmade. All the ceilings were hand-grooved, the wainscoting were hand-grooved, and it was a very unique modern home for that time. In fact in the history book it was rated as one of the nicer homes in Harney County.

DENNY: When you talk about three boards, you mean three wall thickness.

JOE: Three wall thickness, yes, Denny. And a lot of the lumber in there was absolutely clear, not a knot in it.

DENNY: Yeah, and the ---

DENNY: These are notes for a sketch on the Power House Cafe. When was it built, and all that Wally?

WALLY WELCOME: It was built in 1924, and the power company was by Letson and Hodge. And then it was operated in that place as a power; it furnished the power. When

the mill came in, then they got power from the mill to supplement it for a while until they--- and then the Hines Company supplied them power for a while. So they supplied it from 1924 up through, in through about the early '30's.

DENNY: Was that a diesel engine, Wally?

WALLY: I don't know. I know it was different by far than the power --- let me say that it was the first power they had that was any good. The lights were pretty good, up until the boom came in 1929. Then all the houses --- that was when they found out the mill was coming into town, and boom! And then it was too much of a drain on what the --- I think they had one or two, but I don't know whether those, I'm not sure. You know diesels, or what they were. But they were ---

DENNY: It was a powerhouse up until when, how long?

WALLY: It was a powerhouse up until about 1930.

DENNY: 1930.

WALLY: Yeah, about 1930.

DENNY: Did you say who owned it?

WALLY: Huh?

DENNY: Did you say who owned it?

WALLY: That company, that was a private power company, you know. I think that ought to be in Brimlow's book. Check that, and we'll see.

DENNY: More on that powerhouse is in Jennifer (Lee) that book of Harney County. It's that inventory book on the powerhouse, page 60. And then there was the --- Revak was in there. Burns Lumber was in there last, and prior to that was Allison Brother's Logging. That's about all we can come up with on that one.

MARCUS HAINES: Well Ed, let's ---

ED KOENEMAN: He was a German, and that was his trade. He was a stonemason by

trade. Learned it in the old country.

MARCUS: You bet, I knew Charlie well. I always enjoyed Charlie. He always had one thing, you know, he liked his beer.

ED: Yeah.

MARCUS: Charlie says, "Too much beer, just right." (Laughter)

ED: That sounds like Charlie all right.

MARCUS: Doesn't that sound like Charlie?

ED: You bet.

MARCUS: You bet. Well, Ed ---

ED: Charlie told me one time he could have built this house in a lot less time, but to get the boys to haul the rocks sometimes was a problem.

MARCUS: I'll bet.

ED: If they could do it a horseback, you got a lot of rocks, but they didn't like the idea of pulling them down with the ...

MARCUS: Well now, by golly it's quite a trip for this yellow rock, from south of The Narrows there. It must be 12, 15 miles, isn't it from here?

ED: The trouble was, Marcus, you see, they just pick it out in the raw down there.

MARCUS: Right.

ED: And bring it up here and he'd cut it on the table. He'd chip it with a chisel and a little ax.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ED: And they'd lose 50% of the rocks.

MARCUS: Sure they would.

ED: And ---

MARCUS: You bet.

ED: And if you notice a lot of this rock isn't all square. Some of it is six cornered, and especially on these window openings. Notice the different angles that that rock is cut?

MARCUS: Yes, you bet. It's a design all of its own. Here now, I think this building is about 50 feet square, Ed. Then ---

ED: I don't know what the dimensions, I'm not too sure about that.

MARCUS: I think I stepped it here when I was here this spring, just kind of curious to know about it. But we'll go in there pretty quick. I wanted to talk to you a little bit about the rooms here.

ED: You notice the rock on the windowsills there, Marcus. At one time there was only one piece clear across those windows, see. And the vandals have taken axes and sledge hammers, and broken them all up.

MARCUS: Yes, they are all out on this side here, you see.

ED: Yeah, and it's a shame because the weather didn't affect it very much.

MARCUS: No, gosh no.

ED: The rainy weather didn't do it. But I don't know why people like to break up something like this, but ---

MARCUS: Well Ed, about what year would you say this was built or completed? It probably wasn't built in a year for that matter, was it?

ED: No, I would imagine it took 10 or 12 years.

MARCUS: Oh, it was that long? Uh huh.

ED: Yes, they got it in shape so they could live in it. Then they just kept adding or finishing, and adding to it until it's just what you see now.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ED: Ah --- I think, of course I was only a small then. But it looked to me like it was completed when I --- that I can remember. MARCUS: First time you can remember?

ED: Yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ED: But I think it was started in the late, in 1900 sometime there.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ED: But these people were already here and established, and they didn't run many cattle.

They had a wonderful herd of horses though. Their horses were worth money, you know.

MARCUS: That was their business was running horses, wasn't it?

ED: Yes. Dad bought a horse from them, an unbroke horse, and he paid \$150 for it.

MARCUS: That was a lot of money in those days.

ED: He was so damned wild, that it took all summer to tame him down so that you could hook him up to something.

MARCUS: (Laughter) I'll bet.

ED: But they did have wonderful horses. During World War I they sold a lot of horses to the cavalry, the United States cavalry. They gathered up everything, and everything that would qualify they got a good piece of money for. But then after that, why the price of horses just dropped off to practically nothing. 'Cause people were buying tractors and ---

MARCUS: Well Ed, let's --- or can you establish fairly close to when they finally left here?

They were gone in 1923 when we came out here.

ED: Oh yeah, they left here; they must have left here --- well right after World War I. I'd say in about '19. I think Buck Newell was, he hung out here tougher than any of them. In fact I've got a picture of him. But ---

MARCUS: Yeah, I think the house, Ed, as I recall in 1923 was vacant.

ED: Yes, but there was some people after that, that lived here, Marcus.

MARCUS: Yes, I see that there is paper on the wall in there that is dated 1938.

ED: Yes, there was some people came here from Idaho with the idea of raising turkeys.

And it only took them one season to find out that they either had to be in the coyote business or the turkey business, but they couldn't be in both.

MARCUS: Both of them wouldn't work, huh?

ED: They went out of the turkey business pretty fast. And they finally got discouraged and they left. They had made plans to buy the place, 'cause it was dry, and it was ideal for turkeys, and lots of grasshoppers to feed them with. And if it hadn't been for the coyotes, I think they could have made it. But it was just another failure.

MARCUS: Well then ---

ED: Their name was Jones, Sam and John Jones.

MARCUS: Oh? No relation to the Jones out below us here?

ED: No, huh uh, no.

MARCUS: Well that family of Jones lived here at one time, did they?

ED: Who's that?

MARCUS: Lawrence and ---

ED: Oh, yeah. Right where they are living was their dad's homestead. See down there? You can see it right down there in the flat. And they're still living there.

MARCUS: Well they lived in this house at one time though.

ED: No.

MARCUS: They never did?

ED: No, Lawrence bought this on delinquent taxes one time, but he didn't live here. He lived at our place adjoining him, you see, he lived over there.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ED: Here is quite a water problem; because you notice the spring is down there three or four hundred feet below the house. And if they lived here they'd have to carry the water up, they'd have to put in a pumping system, and this --- They had a well here by the back

door of the kitchen with a windmill on it for years. But it barely would, if they were careful, they could get enough water to run the kitchen.

MARCUS: Well I'll be darned.

ED: And that was all. And most of the time they carried water. Ben Newell and Marley Newell carried many thousands of gallons of water from this spring up to this house.

MARCUS: By gosh that's quite a trip. Quite a little ---

ED: Yeah, it's all up hill.

MARCUS: Go a little easy with the bath water.

ED: Yeah. Ben said I wished this spring was on the upper side of the house. I'd carry water down hill and empty buckets up hill.

MARCUS: Ed, name the Newell families of Eastern Oregon. ...

ED: So that makes a family of eight children, Marcus. Five boys and three girls.

MARCUS: Now the father was a one-armed man, was that right?

ED: Yes, he was. A well educated man.

MARCUS: He was a school superintendent at Harney County at one time.

ED: Yes. I'm not sure whether he was the first or the second.

MARCUS: Second one, I think.

ED: Second one I imagine.

MARCUS: I've got the dates at home. I'll put them in this tape. I should have picked them up today, but I forgot. Hank Slater got them for me. (I'm going to interrupt here and list the school superintendents here. I have a listing up to Mrs. Weittenhiller, and apparently our first school superintendent was a L. R. Baker, and that was in 1889. Then Charles Newell from 1890 to '95.)

ED: I don't recall the first man, maybe you know.

MARCUS: No, no I don't.

ED: Well anyway, he was school superintendent there for years. At the same time he had already filed a homestead right on this place, see.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ED: And during the vacations and so forth, he'd come out here and fence it, and put this homestead in shape in order to live here. And later after that he worked also on the newspaper, setting type and so forth. In fact, I guess he was the editor.

MARCUS: Oh.

ED: And later the Griffins took over the paper, Mary Griffin and her husband. They worked in the ---

MARCUS: What paper would that have been?

ED: It was called the "Harney County News".

MARCUS: The "Harney County News", yes, I know that.

ED: Yeah. That's as far as I know. If it had another name, I don't know, I don't recall it. But we used to --- Dad subscribed to it all the time, it was a weekly, and we always looked forward to getting it as it was about the only source of news you could collect in those days.

MARCUS: No radio or telephone. (Laughter)

ED: And unless you met someone on the road, why that was the biggest way of getting the news, or somebody traveling through, other than the paper. The paper was really ---

MARCUS: You really waited for the paper, didn't you?

ED: And it was real expensive, I think it cost a \$1 a year.

MARCUS: Oh, all of that, huh?

ED: Right, a \$1 a year. Now Buck and Rack, and Sis and Molly and Ben all went to school down here on the corner. Buck and Rack were eighth graders at that time. They only went there one year. And I think Sis went two, two or three years. And Molly and I

were just about the same age at that time. I kind of lost track of all of them except a nephew. No, one of Manny's, either Manny's boy or Todd's boy came through and stopped and we had a, had a, quite a bull session. And he told me that, I believe it's Manny works for BLM over at Vale.

MARCUS: Oh, he does?

ED: He's in the BLM office at Vale. And every time I've gone through there, it may have been a holiday or too late to contact him, and I've never been able to ---

MARCUS: Well he would be darn near ready for retirement, wouldn't he, Ed?

ED: Oh, he'd be way past retirement, I'm sure.

MARCUS: Well, yes.

ED: Maybe he's only an advisor or something. Maybe he doesn't have a regular office there. Maybe he's just on the --- He knew so much about this country, and the sagebrush and the coyotes, maybe he's just an advisor.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ED: And on the board some place. But he had something to do with the BLM program, so he told me, this Charlie Newell. Old man Charlie Newell's grandson.

MARCUS: Oh, he's the grandson?

ED: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Oh, I see.

ED: Of the old Charlie Newell.

MARCUS: Oh, I see. I thought he was one of the boys.

ED: No. Mr. Newell was a scout for the United States Army in Montana, and that's where I understand that he lost that arm, was in that Indian skirmish ---

MARCUS: Indian fight probably.

ED: --- up there.

MARCUS: I was going to mention that to you, I thought maybe he might have lost it in the Civil War. He would have been about right for that too.

ED: Well, he could have been ---

MARCUS: Well I was just guessing there. Being a scout, he could have lost that way too, you bet.

ED: He was a powerful man. He could --- he lost his right arm, and of course he was forced then to use his left arm. And he could chop more wood with that left hand than an ordinary man could in an all day chopping. He could cut that much in two hours. With --- you never saw a man could swing an ax, and he didn't just take a short cut on the handle. He got right out on the end of that handle, and you wanted to stand back because the chips would really fly.

MARCUS: Holy smokes!

ED: He was really a ---

MARCUS: If he got a fellow by the neck he could really bounce you around. We're in business again.

ED: Are we ready to go?

MARCUS: You bet.

ED: Mrs. Newell was a very helpful person in this neighborhood. Anytime there was anybody sick in the neighborhood, why you could depend on Mrs. Newell to help them out.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

ED: She'd be right there to help. She was a very charming person. Well, let's go in the house.

MARCUS: Yeah, we'll go in and we'll talk about the house a little bit here. I'll shut the tape off until we get in there.

We're standing here in front of the old Newell House. I have some pictures Ed, that were taken here and around, so I can use this tape with these pictures. The thing that bothers me is these two rooms out here on this end, when you get in them they are partitioned off.

ED: Yes.

MARCUS: In order to get in either one of these rooms, you came out on the porch and went in.

ED: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And then you get to looking in the ceiling and the roof, and there's no sign of a stovepipe hole. I wondered how they heated these rooms.

ED: Well they had only one chimney that connected the front room there in the kitchen, Marcus.

MARCUS: That's all I can see. I was wanting to mention that to you.

ED: They had a big old heating stove there in the front room, and it took up so much room that in the summertime they set it out, and then in the fall they set it back in there. But that was the only source of heat in that whole house was that one chimney there next to the kitchen. One stovepipe served both purposes. Now you see these two rooms you spoke about, Marcus, this one on our left here was the old man's --- what they call a parlor.

MARCUS: Oh, the parlor.

ED: Unless you were a special guest, you didn't get in there. The old man had a lot of Indian relics in there, bows and arrows. And a wonderful display of arrowheads. And that room was completely wall-to-wall; was just lined with old time stuff like that. And the one on the right was his library, and he had thousands of books. And one time all those walls was lined with bookshelves, and any subject you wanted to look up, why you could find it

in that library. I'm sure it was a better library than any in the country at that time.

MARCUS: Well that accounts then for the two rooms being more or less isolated from the rest of the house, doesn't it?

ED: That's right. He didn't call it his library, he called it his study.

MARCUS: His study, huh.

ED: When he wanted to get away from all the noise and everything, why he'd go in there and lock himself up and dig out a book ---

SIDE B

MARCUS: Well we'll start back here to the right of the door as you come in Denny, out of the main museum building, and here is Doc Hibbard's dentist chair that was brought up here by Pete Revak last fall. It was in the old house up here that they bought.

And there's a couple of gas tanks, or pumps there. One of them came from the Lawen Store, and I'm not sure about the other one.

This is an old threshing machine that was here when I came in. It was said that it came from Drewsey and belonged to Milt Davis. There's quite a lot of it is missing, of course. And a fanning mill here at the end of it. And various articles here on this trough that's turned upside down. It was turned the other way, and all of this stuff was piled in there, so we don't have any names to put on this here for donors, because we don't know who it came from.

This is kind of an interesting article here. This is a whiskey barrel, of course instead of a beer barrel, but the old brewery used to be up here prior to the turn of the century, I think. And a fellow by the name of Locher had it here. And he branded these beer barrels with this brand that we have here on the end of this barrel, which is HVBC, which stands for Harney Valley Brewing Company. So the brands will be hanging up

here. I've got them, and I don't have them up yet.

And then to proceed on down here we have three or four different varieties of saws. This is about one of the first chain saws here in the country. And nobody seems to know anything about this saw here. It was in that trough. And I've asked several people, and nobody has ever seen one like it. And this is the old, about the first power drag saw, right here. And the old walking plow back over there. And a few articles on the wall over there, neck yokes and single trees, and jerk lines and ---

Anybody would recognize the shovel over there I guess. And this wagon here, was here. We don't know who gave it to the museum. It's in pretty good shape, it's lacking a brake, but other than that it's in pretty good repair. And then on our left as we go through here was a hose cart here that was used in Burns for many years. We have some pictures of the fire in 1914, and it shows this hose cart out in the street. So it's been around for a couple days anyway.

And here on our right here on the floor is the old PLS Company, or Pacific Livestock Company, Henry Miller's outfit that had the Island Ranch, and so many more ranches, buckaroo range. Now that's what the buckaroo cook, cooked on when he was out with the buckaroos. That's probably over a 100 years old. And in the back of this wagon here is the --- or in the side of it here, is the chuck wagon box that went in the back of the wagon. Of course it went along with this range here.

Over here we have the blacksmith department. This is called the swage block here, and it came from Dickie Jenkins up at Diamond. And this anvil here was donated by Del Hayes, and it was purchased at Camp Harney. Its been around a while too, and the old drill there, and the vise. And what we would call the crow's nest here, duck's nest some of them call it, for the forge. And the bellows was given to us by Cliff Fine when he left out at the Double O. And Lee Williams furnished us with all these various tongs that

the blacksmith used in his operation.

And to continue on here, we've got the old buckboard on our left here that they used, what we would call a pickup now days. I tell these kids this was our pickup, and down here this old two-seated buggy is our car, and the wagon back up here was our truck. And then this board here has got a display of shoeing equipment, and bridles, hackamores, twitches, and floats, and a pair of spurs here. A currycomb, and a pair of hobbles, and then some various branding irons down here below. It's going to be interesting here now, these four shoes up here are what we used on our saddle horses, they are called plates by many people. And then down below here in the center of the two pieces is the oxen shoe. You see there are rights and lefts on them. And then here is a mule shoe right along side of it here. This is what we called rough shoeing a mule or horse, so that you can work them on the ice, or the slick ground. They've got those cleats and rigged up there. The main thing was not to get kicked by one of them. And this was a stitching horse here that Lee Williams gave us from over at Drewsey. And you sat down here and put your kid's shoes in here, or your harness, and clamped it up here in this vice and did your sewing.

And this is the old J. C. Welcome saddle. Probably this was the first --- the first saddle, saddlery in Burns, no question about that. And the next saddle here is the old Army McClelland saddle, and you don't see many of them around any more either, I guess. And this is the packsaddle and the alforjas that the sheepherders used in camp. And then a lot of the cowmen used them to scatter salt. You could put a hundred pounds of salt in each side here, and away you'd go with it. Of course you do it with the pickup nowadays.

And here's the building blocks out of the, of the Arrowhead Hotel that was the Levens at the time this was done, and it was cut out, or was put up there in 1914. And

these doors that's covering this sign just came in the other day. They are the doors off of a saloon that was on the corner down here I think where Alice's Dress Shop is now. And a fellow by the name of Jim Crawford ran the saloon. They just swung both ways, so you wouldn't get hung up if somebody was after you.

And then this is the still, the whiskey still, and the coils that go with it. Pete Clemens brought them in the other day. And this is the old dinner bell that they used around on the ranches here. Just had the fourth grade kids in here, and they had a great time taking the rod and running around and ringing the bell.

And then Doctor Hibbard had this scale, and this device for measuring your height. I had quite a job here measuring kids, and weighing them here for a while. I think I got the most of them done. They got quite a kick out of that ---

This is a steam press here that was the first one that was used in Burns. And people by the name of Sweisters (sp.?) used the --- got it in here, and they had a tailor shop and a pressing plant in the east end of what was the Levens Buildings at the time. And on the right there is a boiler that furnished the steam for the press.

DENNY: Was it coal fired, Marcus?

MARCUS: Yes.

DENNY: What would this apparatus weigh?

MARCUS: Well it's pretty heavy. We had quite a time getting this in here. It's pretty top heavy, and Pete brought it in and had his hired man along and we had a dolly, and we nearly lost it when we started out with it. We finally managed to get it around here and get it off and ---

DENNY: That thing weighs several hundred pounds.

MARCUS: Oh, I'm sure it does, yes. And then this is the extractor here that, or what you would call the dryer now with your washing machine, and spin the cleaning fluid out of it.

Now the washing machine that went with this unit isn't here, so that's about --- I think that's about the only thing that is lacking in here.

Now then this buggy here, Denny, is --- was given here by Father Egan. The folks of not too many years back remembers when he used to drive this in the parade here in the fall.

And the stove here at the back of the buggy is from out of the saloon down at Lawen, and was donated by Dorothy Carson here a couple of years ago.

And going back over here on this end of the building is called the sheep department. And this is the shepherders stove here, as marked as such, and the telescoping pipe that can all kind of bunch down into one length and go in the stove there.

And then the kerosene lantern is part of the equipment there. Its lost the cap off of it there, but they plugged it up with something or another. This is the shepherders box there. He put his --- all his syrup and bread and that sort of thing in it, and it made him a table too. And here was a place for his knife and forks and that. And he has equipment on there to hang that over the packsaddles. So it hung on one side of the packsaddle when he got ready to move.

And here's Doctor Hibbard's veterinarian case. And here's an item here that is kind of interesting while we're back here. This is the shepherder's washing machine.

DENNY: (Laughter) They had a good imagination.

MARCUS: You put your clothes in a five gallon can, and you put your soap down in there and just sit down on the side of the bed and work that up and down just like the gyrator in your washing machine. I've seen them used. See, they've got holes in the bottom of them there.

DENNY: You definitely would have to know what that was, to know what it was.

MARCUS: Yeah, sure you would. But anyway that's what it is. And up on the wall here

on the right is the shepherd's dog. That string of tin cans, and a couple of bells here, and the shepherders shoe, all full of hobnails.

And then this next thing is the sheep brand. It belonged to Victor Cleveland from over at Van, in the Drewsey country. And then a couple of shearing machines here, the one that they called the clips machine, and the other was called the blade. This one on the left was the first one that was used, of course. And then this is what they used to catch the sheep with. It's called the sheep hook, or shepherd's crook. And then the mountain sheep horns that were found on Steens Mountain back in 1922, I think, according to the sign.

DENNY: It'd take an awful long shepherd's crook to catch one of them.

MARCUS: You bet, it sure would. He'd have to be pretty fast shepherd too. (Laughter) You bet. Well that's about the size of it, Denny.

DENNY: Well thank you, Marcus. He was just kind of highlighting this, and like he said, if you want to see the museum, come up here, it's beautiful.

MARCUS: Yes, we have a lot more here that we didn't --- It's hard to explain what we have here without you coming up and looking at it, and so this is part of the show when you come into the main part of the museum. Just come on in the wagon shed and look around.

... (Songs being sung by Hank and Betty Bunyard, written by Hank and Betty.)

HANK BUNYARD: The reason I recorded this was because they made a movie up on east eagle, and they was a lot of hippies up there that I seen. ... (Sings the song.)

DENNY: Now we're going to have another song they are going to sing us. The name is, "The Flying Dutchman". ... (Mrs. Bunyard sings.)

... (Hank Bunyard sings, "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree".)

... (Repeat of some of the songs.)

... (Hank and Betty Bunyard sing, "Out on the Flats".)

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