

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #219 - Sides A & B

Subject: Oscar & Irene Davis (With Video)

Place: Davis Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: July 7, 1989

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy and we're visiting with Oscar and Irene Davis at their home in Burns, Oregon. Barbara Lofgren will be doing some videotaping. And the date is July 7th, 1989. ... Now then tell me what your parent's names are, when you were born, the date, and where.

OSCAR DAVIS: My father's name was Fred Davis, and my mother Mary Davis. Born in Middleton, Idaho, August the 15th, 1914.

DOROTHEA: And do you have any brothers and sisters?

OSCAR: Yes, had seven, six brothers and one sister.

DOROTHEA: Can you give me their names?

OSCAR: There was Lon, Lon the oldest one. And then ---

DOROTHEA: Is that L O N ?

OSCAR: L O N. Yeah. Alonzo.

DOROTHEA: Alonzo.

OSCAR: My sister Serena.

DOROTHEA: Serena. S E R E N A.

OSCAR: Yeah, then Roe, Walt, Chester, Charles, and myself.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Are all of them living yet?

OSCAR: No, there is two dead.

DOROTHEA: Two gone. And they are?

OSCAR: A brother and sister.

DOROTHEA: Serena and ---

OSCAR: Oldest brother Lon and Serena.

DOROTHEA: Lon are gone. Okay now, I know that Roe and Charles live here. Does Charles still live here?

OSCAR: Yeah, Charles still lives here.

DOROTHEA: Okay, they live here. Where do the other boys live?

OSCAR: Well Walt lives at The Dalles.

DOROTHEA: And ---

OSCAR: Chester in Weiser, Weiser, Idaho.

DOROTHEA: Chester is in Weiser. What did your parents do for a living?

OSCAR: My dad was a carpenter.

DOROTHEA: He was a carpenter. Okay. Can you tell me some of the things that you remember about them, that you remember from your childhood, and things that you --- kind of really stuck in your head about some of the nice things that you did.

OSCAR: Well, we always got to play with a lot of blocks. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That was from your father being a carpenter.

OSCAR: Carpenter, yeah, yeah. And he was quite a fisherman and a hunter. We were involved in that. So that was, that stands out real, real strong is the fishing and hunting, naturally.

DOROTHEA: And did you learn to fish and hunt with your father, or ---

OSCAR: That's right.

DOROTHEA: --- your brothers and you all went together.

OSCAR: Father.

DOROTHEA: Where was he born?

OSCAR: What's that?

DOROTHEA: Where was your father born?

OSCAR: Well, he was born in Missouri. Born in Missouri, and mother was too.

DOROTHEA: Oh, so they came from Missouri ---

OSCAR: Yep.

DOROTHEA: --- originally. What brought them to Idaho?

OSCAR: Well, I don't know. I don't know too much about that part of it. I ---

DOROTHEA: That was when you ---

OSCAR: I come along later.

DOROTHEA: You just come along later.

OSCAR: I come along a lot later.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah. So ---

OSCAR: Well, everybody was going west I suppose. It wasn't, it was about 1900.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: Everybody was going west, so it was the thing to do. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So they came out and made their home in Idaho. And then you started flying in Burns, is this right?

OSCAR: I started flying in Idaho.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you started flying in Idaho.

OSCAR: Yeah, started in Idaho.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And did you join the service, or were you inducted?

OSCAR: Yeah, I did. I enlisted in the Army Air Corps.

DOROTHEA: You were in the Air Corps.

OSCAR: Army Air Corps Reserve is what it was.

DOROTHEA: And there is where you learned how to fly?

OSCAR: No, no that was much later. I learned to fly; I learned to fly in Burns, after starting flying in Boise. But I finished up over here.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: I wound up here.

DOROTHEA: And this is another question I wanted to ask is how did you wind up in Harney County? What brought you to Harney County?

OSCAR: Well, my brother started a business over here. And we'd come over and work with him part of the time. That's how I got here.

DOROTHEA: And this is Roe?

OSCAR: Yeah, that's Roe.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. And what was he doing at that time? Was he teaching, or ---

OSCAR: Well he had this; he had an automobile wrecking yard.

DOROTHEA: So he was more or less a mechanic, rather than a pilot?

OSCAR: Yeah. Then he learned to fly just before I did. About that time. Started about the same time.

DOROTHEA: What brought your interest to an airline, or airport, and airplane?

OSCAR: Well, aviation, or the airplane always fascinated me, ever since I seen the first one. It was just something I couldn't get away from. It was going to be, that's all.

DOROTHEA: It had gotten into your blood.

OSCAR: It was --- that's right.

DOROTHEA: Well what, all kinds of jobs did you do before you decided you were going

to settle, and do work at the airport?

OSCAR: I was a mechanic.

DOROTHEA: You were a mechanic also.

OSCAR: Yes.

DOROTHEA: So you worked with Roe there as a mechanic.

OSCAR: Yeah, for a number of years. Then I worked for Cecil Bennett for a few years.

DOROTHEA: And that's when Cecil had the ---

OSCAR: Buick and Chevrolet Garage there.

DOROTHEA: Garage, uh huh. Well then, let's go on and first find out how you met Irene.

And did you meet Irene after you came to Burns? Or ---

OSCAR: Yeah, yeah, I met her after I came here. I met her in the wrecking yard.

DOROTHEA: What was she doing in the wrecking yard?

OSCAR: Goddamn, that was a good question. (Laughter) Well she come in to pick up something for her dad, I suppose.

DOROTHEA: And Irene's name is --- her maiden name was Irene ---

OSCAR: Chambers.

DOROTHEA: Chambers.

OSCAR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And she originally lived in the Drewsey area?

OSCAR: Yeah, Drewsey area.

DOROTHEA: And her parent's names?

OSCAR: That's Ralph Chambers, and Katie Chambers.

DOROTHEA: And so --- and what did they do for a living?

OSCAR: They were ranchers.

DOROTHEA: They were ranchers. Okay.

OSCAR: Ranchers, yeah.

DOROTHEA: So she came in to pick up some parts for her father, and you liked what you saw.

OSCAR: Good guess. (Laughter) Good guess, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Anyway, we'll say that's what she did.

OSCAR: That's good.

DOROTHEA: Is that what you did Irene?

IRENE DAVIS: Well that sounds pretty good.

DOROTHEA: Okay, we'll keep that.

OSCAR: She might have just come in there to see me, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Could have been.

OSCAR: She never told me.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, could have been she had this secret longing, huh?

OSCAR: Probably.

DOROTHEA: Okay, you were a mechanic at Roe's, and then you went to work for Cecil. And, so when did you and Irene get married?

OSCAR: We got married in '48.

IRENE: What? Did he say '48?

DOROTHEA: When did you get married?

IRENE: 1938.

OSCAR: '38.

IRENE: I thought you said '48.

OSCAR: Well, it don't seem like it has been that long.

DOROTHEA: And you had three children, you had three children?

OSCAR: Yeah, three children.

DOROTHEA: Serena. And Serena's last name is what?

OSCAR: Swigert.

DOROTHEA: Okay, you spell that for me.

OSCAR: S W E G E R T. (\*Corrected to Swigert)

DOROTHEA: And there was Carl, who is now deceased. And Sheila, right?

OSCAR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: S H I E L A.

OSCAR: Good enough.

DOROTHEA: And her last name.

OSCAR: Tuter.

DOROTHEA: T U T O R.

OSCAR: T U T E R.

DOROTHEA: E R. Okay. And how did you get the job out at the airport, the Burns Airport?

OSCAR: Well after, after World War II, why I was here and available, and there was nobody on the airport. So that is the way it was. They wanted somebody out there.

DOROTHEA: Did they hire you, or they came to you and asked you to work there?

OSCAR: Well I contacted them, and I got a deal to go ahead and operate a flying service, and look after the airport, manage it.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And was this called the Burns Airport at that time, or ---

OSCAR: Yeah, just Burns Airport.

DOROTHEA: Burns Airport. And what all did you do out there? Just kind of ---

OSCAR: I just kind of looked after things, and run my own business. I had gasoline and oil, and charter service, and student instruction.

DOROTHEA: Tell us something about some of the planes that came in there and landed. What were the largest planes that you were allowed to land? And ---

OSCAR: Well, I can't think what the largest one was. It was in later years, one of the big ones. I don't know what they called it. Military.

DOROTHEA: Military plane.

OSCAR: But it took some pretty big airplanes, would land in there. The 17's used it a lot. B-17's. But there was bigger ones in there.

DOROTHEA: And this was during the early '40's?

OSCAR: Yeah, and '50's, '60's.

DOROTHEA: How long did you work out there? You went out there in ---

OSCAR: I was there twenty-two years.

DOROTHEA: Twenty-two years.

OSCAR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And you started working out there in 1940?

OSCAR: '46.

DOROTHEA: '46. So you worked out there until 1968. And then what was the reason for your quitting? Did they ---

OSCAR: Well, they changed managers.

DOROTHEA: Changed managers.

OSCAR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So it kind of got a little difficult to live there.

OSCAR: Well, a little difficult to operate there, so I bought property and built an airport of



my own.

DOROTHEA: And you ran that.

OSCAR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Now I know that you did a lot of private business, like shooting coyotes, and things like this. Can you tell us something about that?

OSCAR: Well it was a fascinating business, and interesting, as well as profitable. Worked at that for a long while.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. What was the most coyotes that you killed at one time?

OSCAR: Fifty-five was the most we killed in one day.

DOROTHEA: Fifty-five, in one day.

OSCAR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Who helped you with this?

OSCAR: Well Floyd Capps was helping on that. He was just doing the shooting.

DOROTHEA: Did you have several people help?

OSCAR: I did. Yeah, Roe, Roe done some early shooting with me there. And there was Charlie Falk, and Doug Rambo.

DOROTHEA: Doug Rambo.

OSCAR: Yeah. Doug was a businessman from Portland. That would be his fun time.

DOROTHEA: Well that was what he took ---

OSCAR: Yeah, that was his fun time.

DOROTHEA: That was how he relaxed, in other words.

OSCAR: Yeah, he might take a couple months at a time at it.

DOROTHEA: So how far did you fly to do this? Did you fly all over the county, or all over the state, or did you ---

OSCAR: Well, we covered a big part of the state, John Day, and Ontario, Lakeview, Bend, and then toward Klamath Falls. And of course clear south to Nevada.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: And some of Nevada.

DOROTHEA: Now what was the purpose of killing the coyotes? I know there was a lot of controversy about this. They thought this was a bad deal. But for the ranchers and sheep men, and several people, it was a godsend because they were killing cattle and sheep. So ---

OSCAR: Yeah, that --- most of it was for ranchers and of course we done a lot for the State Game Commission of aerial shooting. And also for the feds, and the federal government, on some of the refuges. We done a lot of coyote control on the refuges where, at one time, they had an awful problem with them killing young antelope. It was bad.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: So we done a lot of that for feds as well as private.

DOROTHEA: Can you just kind of go back and just tell us anything that comes into your mind about all the things that you did in your flying. I also know that you flew for cattle, for the ranchers that had cattle on the forest. And I think probably you did a little bit of spraying too. Can you tell us something about all of these things?

OSCAR: Well we done a lot of cattle survey during the winter, especially fall and winter for cattle. And of course it wasn't all in the mountains. Sometimes we'd fly around the lake and get them out of the tules.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: But that was probably one of our smaller parts on stock survey. But the aerial

ag work, spraying, seeding, and things like that turned out to be a big part of our business. Pretty near completely at the later years of our flying, why we done ag work pretty near completely.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: We even dropped the charter and student instruction. Wound up just doing spray work entirely. It was a better deal all the way around.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Crop dusting and things like that?

OSCAR: Yeah. Uh huh.

BARBARA: Did you go up towards Pendleton and things like that?

OSCAR: Yes, we did. We flew ---

BARBARA: Wheat fields and things.

OSCAR: Yeah, we flew the big fields up there, the big wheat fields too. You bet.

BARBARA: What kind of plane did you use?

OSCAR: Pawnee. A Piper Pawnee, spray ag plane. So that turned out to be our bigger part in later years.

BARBARA: Did you ever have some close calls during your spraying? You hear of some pilots flying a little bit too low, and having problems.

OSCAR: Well, any time you're doing anything, why you can have close calls. It's something you live with.

DOROTHEA: Did you teach any of your children to fly?

OSCAR: Yeah, I taught my oldest daughter, and then my son to fly. Which in later years, why he was part of our flying business.

DOROTHEA: He helped with the hunting and spraying?

OSCAR: Yeah, he was a partner in the flying business for probably about twenty years.

BARBARA: When you ran the airport out there, did they ever have any emergency landings, or problems in severe weather conditions that you had out there?

OSCAR: Well, there's little things come along, but there was no, there was no problems.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: Things seemed to work out pretty good.

BARBARA: Did you ever know a man by the name of Ted Barber?

OSCAR: Yes, I did. Real well. Yeah, I know Ted real well. Yeah, he's quite a pilot.

BARBARA: He run horses and things like that?

OSCAR: Yeah, he did, yeah. He done a lot of agriculture work too.

BARBARA: Oh, he did?

OSCAR: Ted did a lot of spraying, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you run horses as well?

OSCAR: I run a lot of horses, yeah.

DOROTHEA: For the BLM, or ---

OSCAR: Yeah, and private enterprise too. Private people. And I did for the BLM too. I did several years, I run for them, run horses. But Ted probably gathered the most horses out of this country of anybody ever had, or probably ever will.

BARBARA: Where is he located now, do you know?

OSCAR: Yeah, he lives down in Nevada there at ---

BARBARA: Orvada, or something?

OSCAR: Orvada, there you, there you are, Orvada. Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: At one time I did a, wrote up a tape Denny Presley was doing with Roe, and he was talking about the first few flights that they had made, and how they had flown through the barns. Did you ever fly through any barns?

OSCAR: No, no I never.

DOROTHEA: Never got that low.

OSCAR: No, I never flew through no barns. Probably been low enough to go through some, but I didn't go through any of them.

DOROTHEA: You didn't go through.

OSCAR: No.

DOROTHEA: I guess it was quite an experience for them to do this.

OSCAR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: They had to; I think they were probably playing.

OSCAR: A lot of different things have been done. They used to fly through the hangers with the doors open too, both ends.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Was this back in the barnstorming days? Is that what they called it?

OSCAR: Yeah, I think that was the big boys that done that.

BARBARA: Were there a lot of pilots that came in to give rides, and to show off?

OSCAR: Well yeah, we just got in on the tail end of the barnstorming. We done a little of that, fly off to places and do a little flying in different places. But we just kind of got in on the tail end of that.

DOROTHEA: More or less the teaching end of it.

OSCAR: Yeah.

BARBARA: Where did they come to when they came around Burns to begin with?

OSCAR: Well, they used to come out of Portland, or Boise.

BARBARA: And would they just land in someone's field, and everybody from town would run out there and try to get a ride, or what was it?

OSCAR: Well, yeah, they'd do that, but they would fly over town and make a lot of noise, and throw out a few handfuls of bills, you know.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: Advertisements. Of course that stuff fluttering around, coming down, why everybody had to grab it.

BARBARA: Get excited, huh?

OSCAR: Oh yeah. But it used to be, you'd fly into a place, why by god they'd land there, it wasn't long there was a crowd there. That's the way it used to be.

DOROTHEA: Flying was about like the helium balloons today.

OSCAR: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: Okay, you said you learned to fly in Boise, was it?

OSCAR: That's where I started flying.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: No, I finished --- I learned to fly, soloed here.

DOROTHEA: And who was your instructor?

OSCAR: Daryl Eggleston here. But Pete Hill is where I took my first, first lessons from Pete Hill. And then a fellow by the name of Ray Crowder, over in Boise. And then I come up here and Daryl was flying, and we had Roe's Eagle Rock there. So I went to flying with Daryl in Roe's airplane. And that's where I soloed here.

BARBARA: What was the plane that you first worked with in Boise, that you first went up in?

OSCAR: The Curtis Junior.

BARBARA: Curtis Junior.

OSCAR: It was a pusher plane.

BARBARA: And about how old were you when you ---

OSCAR: I was twenty-one.

BARBARA: Twenty-one when you had your first lesson.

OSCAR: I just turned twenty-one. Yeah.

BARBARA: You say flying was really what you always wanted to do. What was it that you saw that gave you the idea that you wanted to fly when you were growing up as a child?

OSCAR: Well, I don't know. It was just something that I had to do, that's all there was to it.

BARBARA: Did you ---

OSCAR: From the first airplane I seen.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: I was fascinated, that's all.

BARBARA: It's hard to explain then, it's just something --- you saw a plane, and you thought, boy I really want to get in that and get up there and fly.

OSCAR: It is. To fly, to fly, that was it, you know. It was just something that --- some people, there is things that they just have to do, that's all.

BARBARA: That's the way my son was. When he was growing up, he says, "I want to fly, I want to fly." And he didn't ever get up in an airplane until we moved to Burns. And now that's what he does is fly airplanes. So --- and it was hard for him to explain too, that it was just something that he was drawn to, and he really wanted to do.

OSCAR: That's right, it's --- I don't know is there any way to explain it. It's a desire that --- it is just something that bugs you.

BARBARA: And you say then you came and flew with your brother Roe, and then Daryl Eggleston.

OSCAR: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: Who else were the primary teachers, or flyers in Harney County when you came?

OSCAR: Well ---

BARBARA: The three of you, is all?

OSCAR: No, Ken Wallend, he was a mechanic. It kind of seemed to run with mechanics, this flying.

BARBARA: Uh huh. You needed to know how to fix them, or you wouldn't get back up again.

OSCAR: Well that is true too, a lot of these old airplanes that you flew them for a couple of hours, and you would work on them four or five.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: That's just the way they were.

BARBARA: Pretty simple machines were they at that time?

OSCAR: Well, yeah, they were, they were simple. Yeah, simpler than now.

DOROTHEA: When ---

OSCAR: They had a lot more stuff on them, but then they were simple enough, they were all handmade, you know.

DOROTHEA: When Denny and Roe first were talking about the airport, and they were out by where the Grange Hall is now, he said that, Roe said that he just wore goggles and a helmet.

OSCAR: That's right.

DOROTHEA: You didn't have a cover on your head at that time?

OSCAR: No, no. Brain bucket wasn't thought of yet! (Laughter)



DOROTHEA: Well, lots of times when you went flying, did you have to land in different places, or did you ---

OSCAR: Well that happened, that happened every once in awhile. They'd been known to let you down all right. Yeah. I had my first forced landing, and probably I hadn't flown over about six hours, or seven. I was down by Wright's Point, and the little bolt that holds the points in the magneto, it only had one magneto on it, and that point, or that bolt broke. Well that throwed the points out, and of course there was no place to go but down! And I was fortunate to have a place to land, and no problems. Got another mag put on, and flew it out. But sometimes people were not so fortunate to have a place to put it. That was a good place.

DOROTHEA: Did you carry extra parts with you, or did you have a radio or how did you --  
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OSCAR: No, no we didn't. We never ---

DOROTHEA: You never ---

OSCAR: No.

DOROTHEA: It wasn't really made for much weight, or what were they really made like?

OSCAR: Well, there wasn't much to them, but then they would, the Eagle Rock, the Works Five Eagle Rock it would carry two passengers and a pilot. It was a three-place. So it carried a fair load. But they weren't very fast, cruised about ninety miles an hour.

DOROTHEA: That's fast to me, especially if I was up in the air, I would think that was fast.

OSCAR: Well, it just seems like you're setting there.

DOROTHEA: Does it really?

OSCAR: Just seems like you are setting there.

DOROTHEA: Doesn't seem like you're moving. Well, that's how it is when you get up in the bigger planes, but I've never gotten up enough nerve to get in the smaller ones yet. My son flew, but I never got a ride. I never took a ride with him, I should say that.

OSCAR: Oh.

DOROTHEA: I was scared.

OSCAR: Well the little ones --- Oh, well nothing wrong with being scared. Well, you've been scared in an automobile too, I'll betcha.

DOROTHEA: Yes, I have.

OSCAR: You bet.

BARBARA: More times. Well when you were flying then, really the main jobs that you did was crop dusting, or just transporting people from one place to another?

OSCAR: That's right.

BARBARA: That was your main jobs?

OSCAR: Yeah. And student instructions, at one time I done a lot of student instructions.

BARBARA: Student instructions.

OSCAR: During the war, that's what I done in the military, was a flight instructor. And ---

BARBARA: And you said when you were through with the Burns Airport then you started up your own?

OSCAR: I started my own.

BARBARA: And where was this located?

OSCAR: Well it was where the Finley Slaughterhouse was. Out by the Grange Hall.

BARBARA: Out by the Grange Hall.

DOROTHEA: Which is originally right at the present time owned by the late Linc Hawley.

OSCAR: That's right. Yeah, I sold it to Linc.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: And then just you and your son operated out of that, was it?

OSCAR: Yeah, we operated out of there. Yeah, until his death, and then I sold it to Linc. I was about to retire at the time.

BARBARA: Where all have you flown? Have you gone pretty much all over the United States?

OSCAR: Oh, no.

BARBARA: Just stayed in the Northwest?

OSCAR: Northwest, mostly. I went out and picked up a few airplanes and brought them in from other places. And then I took a trip up into Alaska for a month or two, and flew around up there looking that over a few years back. I liked what I saw, but I never got back there. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Have you ever flown any of the big planes?

OSCAR: No, no.

BARBARA: Have you had a desire to do that?

OSCAR: Well, I was always busy at something else. Smaller, I had flown tri-motor, tri-motor before a little. But that was the biggest I'd ever had anything to do with. But I didn't have much to do with that. I stuck to all the small airplanes.

BARBARA: Uh huh. About how many people do you think you have taught here in Harney County to fly?

OSCAR: Oh god, I don't know. I instructed 400, about 460 during the war, the cadets. And oh, I've probably taught about 300 out of Burns here.

BARBARA: That's an awful lot of people really, for a small community.

OSCAR: Yeah.

BARBARA: It really is.

OSCAR: Well, it's over a period of years, why that makes a difference too.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Well still, nevertheless ---

DOROTHEA: Do you know anybody that is still flying that you taught?

OSCAR: Oh, I don't know, by gosh. Oh yeah, Jack McAllister, I taught Jack to fly. And --

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BARBARA: He has his own plane now, doesn't he?

OSCAR: Oh yeah, oh yeah. He goes all over.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: But --- oh, I just haven't give it much thought.

DOROTHEA: Well how about Frank Tuning, was he flying?

OSCAR: Yeah, Tuning, I instructed Tuning a little. I never done much work with Tuning. But we flew a little together.

DOROTHEA: Well let's see, who else?

OSCAR: He had a schoolteacher friend out there that he done most of his flying with.

BARBARA: Harold Reid?

OSCAR: Huh?

BARBARA: Harold Reid?

OSCAR: I guess that was his name. I guess there is, I guess there is one of the Hurlburts that's flying yet, that I taught to fly. I taught all of them to fly.

DOROTHEA: Steve? Did you? Did you teach Donna?

OSCAR: Donna, yeah. Yeah, Donna, Bill, and oh damn, I can't think of his name right now, I don't know why.

DOROTHEA: The oldest boy?

OSCAR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: James?

OSCAR: And the others too.

DOROTHEA: Jim and Steve. Did the girls fly?

OSCAR: Jim and Steve. Yeah, I haven't seen them for quite a while. Jim and Steve, yeah. And then their oldest daughter. Now the youngest daughter never learned to fly.

DOROTHEA: And the oldest daughter is Nancy.

OSCAR: Yeah. Yeah, I taught Nancy to fly. But that was, that was quite a bunch. I taught them all to fly. They all got licenses. DOROTHEA: They were down in the Double O area where they needed to get to town once in awhile ---

OSCAR: Well, yeah.

DOROTHEA: --- or someplace I suppose, faster than ---

OSCAR: They sure had the desire to fly, and they were capable.

DOROTHEA: They wrecked a plane or two, didn't they?

OSCAR: Well, they wrecked one.

DOROTHEA: They went a little low.

OSCAR: But I guess they wrecked one running horses. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Got a little low on it.

OSCAR: They got a little something.

BARBARA: You say you worked with Daryl Eggleston to begin with here. Did he have an airport, or a business of his own too?

OSCAR: Yeah. Well he had an airplane of his own. And he was giving instruction. Heck, along then if you had ten or eleven hour's solo, why heck you could be instructors. (Laughter) There wasn't much formality.

BARBARA: No big deal, huh?

OSCAR: No much formality then, no.

BARBARA: Was there any special licensing that you had to have?

OSCAR: Oh yeah, there was special licenses. Oh sure there was. But everybody didn't have them.

BARBARA: The requirements that you were supposed to have before you could do this.

OSCAR: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

BARBARA: By the state, was it?

OSCAR: Yeah, state and fed, federal.

BARBARA: Federal aviation.

OSCAR: It was the CAA then, civil aeronautics administration. Now it's the federal aviation.

BARBARA: What was your favorite airplane that you flew? Did you have a favorite?

OSCAR: Oh damn, I don't know. Probably the, well they all had their good points, and their bad points. But probably about the lousiest one was the Ronca Side by Side, the Chief, Ronca Chief. They had kind of a lousy, lousy rig. But then they done the job.

DOROTHEA: How many airplanes did you have parked at the airport at one time? Can you remember?

OSCAR: Oh gee, I don't know. That was local?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: Probably about twenty-six.

DOROTHEA: Do you think there is that many now?

OSCAR: Well, there --- I don't know what's out there now. I haven't been out there. I drove by it, but I haven't pulled in there for six or eight months, I don't think. And there is

not many airplanes there now. Of course there is some in the hangers I guess.

DOROTHEA: Well that's what I was wondering, because you don't see many airplanes out there anymore.

OSCAR: No, they've --- they tell me, from what I hear though, its way down. They haven't, they haven't got many. But there is not many people that own an airplane now. It's at a standstill. In other words, it's a slump.

DOROTHEA: Well it's kind of an expensive hobby right now, I think.

OSCAR: It's terribly expensive now, and it's getting worse. It's terribly expensive.

DOROTHEA: Can you give us some of the requirements of an airplane? Like so many hours before a tune-up, or whatever you want to call them.

OSCAR: Well they go by hours. They have a daily inspection that you run on your airplane if you're flying it. If you're not flying it, you don't, of course, but then every hundred hours. There is some things you will check on every twenty hours, you know. It's --- but there is a hundred hour inspection, and then of course there is an annual inspection every year.

DOROTHEA: Now does somebody come in and do this, or ---

OSCAR: Well either that, or you got to have a licensed man do it. If there is one here, why you can have him do it. Or, take it out to someone. There is a lot of airplanes taken out to someone to do.

BARBARA: Do they have to be licensed by the FAA?

OSCAR: Yeah, they have to be licensed. Yeah, to do that work.

DOROTHEA: Compared to when you first started, is there a lot more, and intricate paperwork to do now then --- like you said if you had six or eight hours you were an instructor.

OSCAR: You weren't a licensed instructor. But they were doing it. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: But you could do it. Compared to that, have they built up the paperwork tremendously?

OSCAR: Oh yeah, it's getting worse. Quite a headache.

DOROTHEA: Makes flying not quite as enjoyable.

OSCAR: That's right. So much paperwork to do. So much studying to do. Of course, there is a lot of, a lot of new fancy doodads on these airplanes that's pretty nice. It costs lots of money, and it's pretty nice. And it would be a safety deal too. But it all runs into lots of money.

BARBARA: Are flight plans --- what are they called --- yeah flight plans that you have to file when you want to go from one place to another. Is that required, or is it just something the airports wished you would do?

OSCAR: Well, it's good practice. It's definitely on air taxi and some things, why it's required where other people are involved besides the pilot. But it's a, it is a good plan. Of course with --- there is some good radio equipment anymore, why it makes it a lot safer too. Better communication. Where it used to be, that what radio equipment when they come out with it, it wasn't worth a damn. It was no good. Couldn't depend on it or nothing. But any more you can.

BARBARA: Are you still flying now?

OSCAR: I haven't been up for oh, probably a year, year and a half. But I would fly a little bit every once in awhile.

DOROTHEA: Do you still have your planes?

OSCAR: No, I don't. I don't have an airplane; I don't hardly have even a piece of one. I got a pair of skis for one, all right. But no, I sold everything. I sold my airplanes. I had a



lot of parts too, I sold them.

BARBARA: Do you miss it?

OSCAR: Well, yeah I did, and I do. I miss it; sure I do, all right. But I was with it a long while, so I kind of ---

BARBARA: You were ready to retire from it?

OSCAR: That's right.

BARBARA: All in good time.

DOROTHEA: Feels good to talk about it, and not have to go get in it. Especially in a snowstorm, or something.

OSCAR: Well right, especially to making a living at it. To go fly for your own recreation and things, that's pretty nice. But you're in the business why, it just runs into work.

BARBARA: Was it --- could you make a fairly decent living out of crop spraying, and chartering, and that sort of thing?

OSCAR: We did, we did, we made a pretty fair living at it.

BARBARA: There was not that much competition right around this area?

OSCAR: No, there wasn't. But then it don't take them long to move an airplane very far, you know. We had competition all right, all around us. Lakeview, Ontario, see, so it was pretty competitive. You had to stay in line.

BARBARA: You had to get out there and work for it.

OSCAR: Oh yeah, and you had to stay in line on your prices too, and your work. Oh yeah, you bet. You bet, because they can move those airplanes pretty fast.

DOROTHEA: About how much has the prices changed, and how do they differ from when you were doing it, and even just today?

OSCAR: Well I would say that right today it would cost you about three times as much to

operate an operation as it did when I quit about four years ago.

DOROTHEA: With the fuel raises and ---

OSCAR: That's right.

DOROTHEA: And I suppose the difference in the prices ---

OSCAR: And the insurance is up so damn high too.

DOROTHEA: That's, that is a killer of all people, that insurance.

OSCAR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Was there special kinds of insurance that you had to carry to cover yourself and your equipment?

OSCAR: Well you had to have liability. And it's optional whether you insured your aircraft or your equipment or not. But it's optional whether you did or not then, but you had to have liability. And now you take on ag liability, for crop liability alone, just crop liability it went from \$500 an airplane for a year, to \$2500 a year for each airplane. To spray, just to spray. It done that in about, oh about seven years. That's a going up.

BARBARA: That is really bad.

OSCAR: So now, today it is about \$2800 liability before you turn a muscle out there to do any spraying.

DOROTHEA: And I imagine trying to get insurance on your life and everything is almost impossible.

OSCAR: Well that runs a little more. Straight life don't run much more. But then other, twenty year deals why they run more.

DOROTHEA: Pretty much.

OSCAR: But straight life insurance, of course that don't run very much. You got to get busted to beat it though. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did you enjoy the mechanic part of your job?

OSCAR: I did. I enjoyed my airplanes, even working on them.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: Yeah, I enjoyed working on them. I liked to keep an airplane up, and it sounded better when it's kept up. You bet they did. It might have been all in your head, but then, you know, and it's nice to know when they are right.

BARBARA: Feel a little more secure when you're up there when you know you've worked on it.

OSCAR: Yeah, that's right. You want to take care of things on the ground, not worry about it while you're up there. You notice things that have to be done, and then you do them.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Were you the only one then that worked on your airplanes, when you were running your business? Or did you have other people working for you?

OSCAR: No, no we had other people that ---

BARBARA: Was it hard to find a good airplane mechanic?

OSCAR: Well, just to go out and get one, yes. But we usually had somebody lined up.

BARBARA: Train them a little as you go along too?

OSCAR: Yeah, but after a period of years going, why you have people lined out here and there where you know where you can turn to right quick.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever fly with, or have anything to do with Tom Choate?

OSCAR: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Did you teach him?

OSCAR: Yes, you bet. Yes I did, I issued his private license to him, Tom Choate.

DOROTHEA: Well great.

OSCAR: You bet. Yeah, Tom is still flying. He is a good pilot.

DOROTHEA: His wife flies too, so I guess his daughter and ---OSCAR: Yeah, Tom is still flying. In fact is the last flying I done was out there with Tom.

DOROTHEA: Was it?

OSCAR: Yeah, about a year and a half ago, yeah.

DOROTHEA: So you still have someone in contact that you can fly with.

OSCAR: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: If you ever get the urge to go up again.

OSCAR: Oh, yeah. Oh yeah, sure, all I have to do is --- like that cigarette I had --- I just grab, take a hold of that phone and call that number. (Laughter)

BARBARA: And get a quick fix.

OSCAR: Yeah, call Tom and it won't take long.

BARBARA: Well, that's real nice.

OSCAR: You bet. Oh, you bet. But it's went a long ways. By gosh, I'll tell you, those old airplanes. And from there into the rockets, and man on the moon, you know. There has been a lot of changes since I started. The airplanes don't look the same either.

DOROTHEA: No.

OSCAR: No. No, it's changed. We went through quite an area. Quite a time of change.

DOROTHEA: Have you built an airplane from the ground up?

OSCAR: No.

DOROTHEA: You never have built one?

OSCAR: I've rebuilt from the ground up.

DOROTHEA: Well this was another ---

OSCAR: Like recover, you know, or on and so forth.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. This was another thing that ---

OSCAR: I was always working with someone, I had to --- you always have some good help to do, working at it too. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Now did Roe build one? I know he ---

OSCAR: Yeah, he done --- Roe done a lot of, he done more of that airplane work than I did. Oh, yeah. He done a --- yeah.

DOROTHEA: Because I --- seems like he said something about he had gotten an old Eagle Rock, or something like that.

OSCAR: He did. That one we talked about. Why he got it, kind of a basket case, when he was up there at the brewery, where the brewery was. And he had it tore down in the shop up there. And he recovered it, and built it up. I think he worked the engine over. Yeah, he, that's where he started in. He just started rebuilding one. Bought one that was kind of a basket case, and went from there.

DOROTHEA: He went from there.

OSCAR: But it was easier, they didn't cost so much money then. Of course not as much airplane maybe. But two or three hundred dollars you could buy an old bi-plane at that time, you know. But two or three hundred dollars was quite a bit of money then too. But not ---

BARBARA: Everything is relative.

OSCAR: Relative. But they cost a lot more in comparison now, of course.

BARBARA: Well so do cars.

OSCAR: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: I see Oscar looking at this red light.

OSCAR: Yeah, I was wondering about that.

DOROTHEA: That means stop.

SIDE B

IRENE DAVIS: ... grew up over in Drewsey. And I lived there all my life. I was born in Ontario. And I lived on the ranch, rode horses to school. And went to school in Drewsey, not in Drewsey, out in Pine Creek. And rode my horse to school. And then I came to Burns when I was a junior in high school, or no, sophomore. I went one year over there at Drewsey. My folks hired a teacher. There was three of us kids that were ready for high school. Our folks' hired a teacher and taught us over there at Drewsey. And I went my first year of high school in Drewsey. And ---

DOROTHEA: How many was in your family?

IRENE: There was four of us.

DOROTHEA: Four.

IRENE: There was three girls and a boy.

DOROTHEA: And who are they?

IRENE: Well there was Ferrell, and Lou, and Viola, and myself.

DOROTHEA: Okay. What are their last names now?

IRENE: Well Ferrell would be Chambers. Lou is Milner. And Viola is Granat.

DOROTHEA: G R.

IRENE: G R A N A T.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Granat. G.

IRENE: R A N A T. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And where do they live?

IRENE: Well Ferrell lives in Hazelton, Idaho. And Lou lives in Snoqualmie ---

OSCAR: Snoqualmie.

IRENE: --- Washington. And Viola lives here in Burns.

DOROTHEA: And she used to be McDonald?

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And how is she doing?

IRENE: Oh, pretty good.

DOROTHEA: Is she?

IRENE: Yeah, pretty good.

BARBARA: You say you met Oscar at Roe's wrecking yard?

IRENE: At the wrecking yard.

BARBARA: Now was that, was that really kind of a put up deal, or were you really interested in meeting him?

IRENE: No, I kind of wandered on to him. (Laughter)

BARBARA: So how did you get him to ask you out?

IRENE: Well, I don't know.

BARBARA: I think it is always the woman that does it.

IRENE: I think we work around, you know. (Laughter) I drove to school, after we moved to Burns, I drove to school. And I always thought that I deserved a better car than my dad bought for me. So I would get my car up there at Roe's, because --- do you know what I -- - that's terrible. I used to take and raise the distributor cap, and pack it full of snow, so as it wouldn't run.

DOROTHEA: Ah ha. See it was a planned thing!

IRENE: Dad had to come and get it. Well no, I was hoping that he would buy me a different car.

DOROTHEA: Oh, oh, that was the plan. But you found a fellow instead.

IRENE: I thought I surely deserved something better. Yeah.

BARBARA: So how old were you when you met Oscar then?

IRENE: Let's see, I was sixteen. When we were married, I was just about eighteen. I was seventeen. We was married the 4th of June, and I was eighteen the 22nd of June. So we got married right after I got out of high school.

BARBARA: What did you do for dates at that time?

IRENE: Oh my gosh.

BARBARA: Go to dances and things like that?

IRENE: To the dances, and the movies, that kind of thing.

OSCAR: People went to the movies then.

IRENE: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: We had a nice movie house even when I was younger.

OSCAR: Oh yeah, sure.

IRENE: We had a good movie house. Went to movies, and went to the dances. That was a big deal.

BARBARA: And you were living in town then? Or were you driving from Drewsey ---

IRENE: No, no, no, my folks had moved to Burns.

BARBARA: --- to go to school? I see.

IRENE: Outside of Burns.

BARBARA: Outside.

IRENE: And we had a, and they had a ranch outside of Burns. And I drove from what is, was the Foley place. Foleys were an old family here. And we lived on their place. And I drove from there.



DOROTHEA: We keep trying to get an interview with Teresa Guinie. But so far we haven't made it.

IRENE: Oh, haven't you?

DOROTHEA: But we're going to do it.

IRENE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: We just got our fingers crossed.

OSCAR: She's quite a gal, Teresa.

IRENE: Yeah, she is.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she is.

OSCAR: You bet. Damn right.

DOROTHEA: She says she doesn't have anything of interest to tell us. But ---

IRENE: Oh, she would have.

DOROTHEA: You know, once we got started, I talked to her one night on the telephone for over an hour.

IRENE: Did you?

DOROTHEA: And that's what I said, now see Teresa, we've just got all kinds of things to visit about.

IRENE: Yeah, yeah. Oh yeah, she would have.

OSCAR: Oh, she would have.

IRENE: But I tell you, when we moved to the city airport ---

OSCAR: She might even be able to remember a lot of them too, where I don't.

IRENE: --- that was like being set out in the middle of the Sierra Desert. I'm not kidding you. There was some old buildings out there that the Air Force had used, and that was it.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

IRENE: And we made us a house, out of part of one of these old buildings. And one summer, we didn't have no windows, and our kids wouldn't use --- we had a door with a canvas over it, and our kids wouldn't use that door. They would come in and out of the windows.

OSCAR: They thought it was the best house that ever was. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Playhouse.

IRENE: I had a big oil case for my cupboard, and I cooked on a three-burner gas stove. And we hauled water for over a year from Burns.

BARBARA: Oh, my.

IRENE: Yes! So that was like being set out in the middle of the desert.

OSCAR: City of Burns, they was always broke, you know. Still are.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

OSCAR: Still are.

DOROTHEA: I know it.

OSCAR: That's the old ... broke.

DOROTHEA: I've never been able to understand that.

OSCAR: They've been going for years the same way. Broke!

IRENE: The day they drilled us a well, was a great day.

OSCAR: Yeah, it was.

DOROTHEA: Did they strike water the first time?

OSCAR: Yeah, oh yeah.

IRENE: Yeah, they did. It was a great day. By golly, I tell you that was something else.

BARBARA: Did you learn to fly, or did you want to?

IRENE: He tried, but he gave up in despair.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

IRENE: Because if it would make me a little bit nervous, I wouldn't do it, see, what he would tell me. If it made me nervous, I just wouldn't do it. He taught the two kids, Serena, and Serena's husband, and Carl to fly. But Sheila and I didn't go for it, I guess.

BARBARA: You felt more comfortable on the ground?

IRENE: Yeah, or to let him do the flying.

BARBARA: Did you have any problem flying?

IRENE: Oh no, no.

BARBARA: As a passenger.

IRENE: No, I enjoyed it. We done a lot of flying together.

BARBARA: You just didn't want to be in charge.

IRENE: I didn't want to be in charge. No, didn't want to be in charge. But we done a lot of flying together.

BARBARA: Did you help Oscar, like do the bookwork or things like that with his business, or were you mainly a housewife?

IRENE: Well, no. I've mixed spray, and I loaded the airplane, and I flagged.

OSCAR: Oh, when we had the GI flight school ---

IRENE: Well when we had the GI flight school ---

OSCAR: We had the approved flight school here for the state board of aeronautics. Well the state board, yeah, of education at one time.

IRENE: We moved out there in 1945, at the city airport.

OSCAR: Had a license school here.

IRENE: And I did do the work then.

OSCAR: She took care of the books. And they had a GI contract that we done quite a bit

of teaching to ex-GI's to fly after World War II. Had a contract with the vets there.

IRENE: But when we started spraying then ---

OSCAR: When she took care of the books and all the paperwork on that.

IRENE: I done that too. But I worked out with the field too.

OSCAR: I just sat in the airplane and flew.

IRENE: He just flew it, see. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: You got all the dirty work.

OSCAR: That's all, that's all I done. I just flew the damn airplane.

IRENE: I done the dirty work. I'll never forget one time we was doing some spraying down on Hills' place, wasn't it?

OSCAR: Oh, down there below Crane?

IRENE: Yes.

OSCAR: Yeah. Lloyd Hills.

IRENE: And they had some spray that they'd had for quite some time, and it had got congealed. And I was loading down there for Carl. And I beat the cockeyed cans like this, to break that spray up. My legs were black and blue, needless to say. But we got through it.

DOROTHEA: Did you use it?

IRENE: Yeah, you could beat it up and use it, and put it through. No, we had some god-awful experiences.

OSCAR: Goddamn, you know, they'd buy a bunch of that damn stuff, and some of it isn't too good to keep over. But they'd buy a bunch of it, because they could buy it cheaper in a big lot. But oh god, it caused lots of problems.

IRENE: He couldn't get it out through the nozzles.

OSCAR: Had a hell of a time getting some of it mixed back up again.

IRENE: Yeah, we had ---

OSCAR: But they'd still do her.

IRENE: We had some experiences. But they were all fun now.

BARBARA: Looking back on them, they're easier than when you went through them.

IRENE: Yeah. They're fun now.

DOROTHEA: We can laugh about them now.

IRENE: Yeah, yeah, they're fun.

BARBARA: Did you ever work outside of the home, or just help Oscar with his business.

IRENE: No, I worked outside of the home.

BARBARA: Oh, have you? What did you do?

IRENE: I cooked down at the 4-C's for seven years. And then I worked at the welfare office for four years. And I'm retired.

DOROTHEA: You're retired now, you don't work anymore?

IRENE: Yeah, I'm not working anymore.

DOROTHEA: I haven't been up there since Daddy doesn't have to go up there anymore. I haven't been up there.

IRENE: Yeah, I worked up there for four years.

OSCAR: Say, I tell you, you've never played pinochle until you played cards with your mother.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I know that.

OSCAR: (Laughter)

IRENE: Oh, we used to do that too.

OSCAR: Oh, god damn, I tell you Hopie Howes was something to play pinochle with.

IRENE: Yes, she was. She was fun.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

OSCAR: By god, she was good at it too.

DOROTHEA: She was, she knew what everybody had in their hand. Yeah.

OSCAR: She could tell some good stories too.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. My oldest brother kind of takes after that side of the family, I think. We all got together for my nephew's wedding this weekend.

IRENE: Oh, did you?

DOROTHEA: And we sat there and laughed our heads off. In fact the whole bar ended up at our table. So I mean, you know, we don't know whether we're glue, or what the world is. But anyway, we sure collect a crowd.

IRENE: But I didn't go out and start working until the kids got growed up. I stayed home with them.

DOROTHEA: Well Oscar, can you tell us something maybe about the three C's. Did you fly with any of them?

OSCAR: Who?

DOROTHEA: The three C'S. Irene said she cooked for them.

OSCAR: No.

IRENE: Oh, 4-C, hon.

DOROTHEA: Oh, 4-C.

IRENE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I see what you were talking about.

IRENE: The day care center.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, the day care center. Okay. I got it mixed up.

IRENE: Yeah. No, the 4-C.

DOROTHEA: Okay, I thought maybe you were here when the three C's was in here.

IRENE: Oh, I was. I was.

DOROTHEA: Did some flying or something with them. I know they didn't --- they had a camp pretty close there to where Charlie Fox used to live. Or they had some big planes in there I remember.

IRENE: That was during the first part of the war.

DOROTHEA: I think Oscar said he wasn't here.

OSCAR: ...

IRENE: There, you was instructing in Missoula at that time.

OSCAR: Yeah. When the air force was out here.

IRENE: Yeah.

OSCAR: Yeah.

IRENE: You instructed in Missoula during that time.

BARBARA: I don't quite understand when you say the military was in here at Burns. Up on Radar Hill they said they had something. You say they also had something out here at the airport too?

IRENE: Uh huh. There was a P-38 base out here.

OSCAR: During World War II.

IRENE: During World War II.

BARBARA: I see.

IRENE: The first part. They trained pilots out here. And they had a P-38 base.

BARBARA: I see.

IRENE: That's how come, the government built the field.

BARBARA: Oh.

IRENE: The city, and then they turned it over to the city after they were through with it.

BARBARA: I see.

IRENE: But the military built the field out there.

BARBARA: About how many people were there in here?

IRENE: Golly, I don't know.

OSCAR: See, we were gone. We were in here once. We was only in here once or twice when they were here. But we was gone.

IRENE: He was in the service. He'd just come back, when he'd be on furlough, to visit my folks. But I think there were quite a few out there.

OSCAR: It was a tent town. It was all tents.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I can remember that.

OSCAR: All tents.

IRENE: It was the one big building.

OSCAR: A slug of tents out there. When we took it over, it was --- put our operation in it after World War II, why you could see where all the tents had been. Tent places all over.

IRENE: Yeah. But we didn't go out there until 1945. And then we operated our flying service up to 1985. That's while we were in operation. But he was flying when we started going together. So that was a ---

BARBARA: Did he try to get you up when you were dating?

IRENE: Oh, yes. I flew with him.

BARBARA: That was a good way to get away together. (Laughter)

IRENE: Big thrill!



OSCAR: Pretty hard to follow that airplane. (Laughter)

IRENE: He had an old, he had an old Eagle Rock. You'd get in that plane ---

OSCAR: I bought that plane from Roe.

IRENE: --- and holly cow, sitting back there in a whirlwind.

DOROTHEA: Did you have no covers on then, just hats?

IRENE: Oh, I had a helmet that I wore.

BARBARA: Did you have a front and a back seat, or a side by side?

IRENE: No, front and back.

BARBARA: Front and back.

IRENE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Kind of like Barney Google?

IRENE: Yeah, kinda ---

DOROTHEA: Snuffy.

IRENE: Kind of the same thing.

DOROTHEA: Snoopy, or whatever the --- that goes ---

IRENE: Snoopy. Kind of the same thing. Then we'd get in that old pusher that Ott (Oscar) had. One time he was flying in it and he, you know, the propeller was in back of him. He rode out here in front. And he had a scarf that he wore around his neck. And one end of that scarf had worked out from his coat, and that prop grabbed that scarf, and boy I tell you it burnt his neck like ---

OSCAR: God damn near unscrewed my head. (Laughter)

IRENE: --- like you can't believe.

OSCAR: God damn near screwed the head right out of my shoulders.

IRENE: Yes it was. We can laugh about it now.

DOROTHEA: Did you find a quick pair of scissors, or a knife?

IRENE: ... right off.

BARBARA: Goodness.

DOROTHEA: Did you turn it off quick, or did you just get out of the way?

OSCAR: Well it was gone quick, let's put it that way.

DOROTHEA: It just went like this.

OSCAR: It was gone quick, and it was gone.

IRENE: It was gone.

DOROTHEA: Cut his head ---

IRENE: Pulled it over his neck. Looked like somebody tried to hang him.

BARBARA: On your notes there, do you have some other good stories that you might share with us?

OSCAR: No, I don't think there are any stories on them notes; it's just bare facts.

DOROTHEA: Well let's get down on tape about spraying the antelope and something about that.

OSCAR: Well you was telling it real good Mom.

IRENE: It's your job, not mine. You're the one that done the spraying.

OSCAR: You helped load the plane. It was your fault.

IRENE: Shoot, you tell it yourself. Trying to pull anything out of him is like pulling teeth, isn't it Dorothy?

DOROTHEA: Well you were doing this for the ---

IRENE: Fish and wildlife.

DOROTHEA: --- fish and wildlife. Ellis Mason got you. And he was what at that time?

OSCAR: Game biologist.

IRENE: He was the game biologist.

DOROTHEA: Game biologist.

IRENE: Yeah. And they figured they'd do this, and then they could keep track of that herd of antelope. See they were up here in Silvies Valley.

OSCAR: Well the experiment was, they wanted to find a way to mark these antelope, and check migration, spring and fall, see.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: That was the deal of it. And they used a number of different things. They went from that to some kind of a solution they had. They had a chemical that they mixed with peroxide. And we wound up using that, and it seemed to work out pretty good. And so we done quite a bit of spraying on different herds all over the country. I guess it didn't kill them. Sprayed a bunch down by Plush. We --- they had the, wanted to check migration on a bunch of them down there, but at different places. But I think the biggest amount of spraying of that was done down by Plush.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: There was something in that peroxide, and it would turn the --- it was a clear solution --- but after it hit the animal and dried, why it turned them black.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

OSCAR: By the time you'd leave a herd, get them plastered with that, why they would be turning black. The antelope would be.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

OSCAR: Oh, I done a lot of silly things like that.

IRENE: Yeah, we did.

OSCAR: Game Commission done a lot of silly things too.

IRENE: Do you remember old Frank Ruh's brother, Charlie Ruh?

DOROTHEA: I don't remember him. I've heard of him, yeah.

IRENE: Crimine, Oscar scattered his ashes out here one time after he --- they had him cremated.

DOROTHEA: Out on ---

IRENE: Uh huh, out there on, by Stinkingwater.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: Yeah, on that place out there, by Crane.

IRENE: Yeah. But the, old Charlie left it in his will, that if Ott was still alive, he wanted him to scatter his ashes. And so they brought Charlie out, and he was in a little shoebox. You ought to remember that Serena.

BARBARA: Shoebox? Oh, dear.

OSCAR: Yeah.

IRENE: Little box, about like this.

OSCAR: Yeah, well, a little box about like a shoebox.

IRENE: And he sat on our TV for over a month. And because Frank said he wanted to be there when Ott scattered him. And Frank, he didn't like the idea of doing it in the first place.

OSCAR: He didn't want it done.

IRENE: He didn't want it done. And so they told him well he could break the will, but he'd have to go through some process. So finally Oscar would say, "Well let's, I'd like to scatter the ashes." And Frank would always have some reason that he couldn't be there. So one day Oscar called him, and he said I'm going to scatter Frank's ashes in the morning.

OSCAR: Frank ---

IRENE: So if, or Charlie's, so if you want to be there. Yeah, he would be there. So him and Al Brown went out. But anyway, what was so funny, we put those ashes in a paper sack, so as we could put them out through the window. And no kidding, I've --- I'd always heard that they were ashes. They are not ashes. There is ashes, but there are pieces of bone that big.

BARBARA: Oh, dear.

IRENE: And do you know ---

BARBARA: About an inch long or more?

IRENE: Yes, about like that. And do you know, when we sold that airplane, where his ashes came back and hit the tail surfaces, it nicked pieces right out of the tail surfaces. And they were still there when we sold that airplane.

OSCAR: Charlie didn't want to get out near as bad as he thought he did.

IRENE: Charlie hung on with his fingernails.

DOROTHEA: I guess not.

OSCAR: When he went by the tail, he tried to hang on. I know damn well he was grabbing at that damn thing. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah, he didn't want to stand out there by himself, did he?

OSCAR: Damn right, he was grabbing at everything that he could catch back there to hang on.

BARBARA: Oh, my.

OSCAR: Yeah, I know he was.

IRENE: We put the ashes in this paper sack, and when Ott got back, I said, "Have you got a metallic taste in your mouth?" It was just like you had sucked on a penny. And he

said, "Yeah," he did too. So it must have been something off of those ashes.

OSCAR: Was the ashes. Gee gosh, that airplane, cockpit got full of ashes.

IRENE: You didn't dump all of Charlie, shame on you.

DOROTHEA: Well, he didn't want to get out. (Laughter)

OSCAR: A lot of it stayed in the airplane. Part of it stayed in the airplane, dust. We had dust out of there, but then there was

--- there was dust, you know. But there was big pieces of bone too, just like this.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BARBARA: Oh, goodness. So I suppose that's the first and last time you ever did that as a job.

IRENE: No, we have done ---

OSCAR: No, that's the only one I did.

IRENE: Carl did ---

OSCAR: Carl dumped one over on Wagontire Mountain, a buckaroo, all right.

DOROTHEA: Now I know Donna's husband, Bill Hurlburt ---

IRENE: Bill Hurlburt.

DOROTHEA: --- and Nancy both were cremated. And both were spread over the ranch.

IRENE: Yeah, their daughter.

DOROTHEA: Did they ---

IRENE: We didn't spread them.

DOROTHEA: You didn't?

IRENE: No.

DOROTHEA: Somebody else did?

IRENE: I don't know just how they did that.

OSCAR: I don't know.

IRENE: Whether --- I don't know as they got an airplane to do that.

DOROTHEA: Well, maybe they didn't.

IRENE: I think they just scattered.

DOROTHEA: Just scattered.

OSCAR: Maybe they put them in a drill and sewed him.

IRENE: Oh, shame on you!

DOROTHEA: Oh! (Laughter)

IRENE: Shame on you. No, I don't believe that they hired an airplane. Now I might be wrong.

OSCAR: I don't recall it. I don't know of it.

DOROTHEA: They might not have. I can't remember.

IRENE: I can't recall.

DOROTHEA: I know they both wanted to ---

IRENE: But they were both --- him and Mary, what was her ---DOROTHEA: --- Kay, both.

OSCAR: Well, they could have rented an airplane, hell they all flew.

IRENE: Well, maybe they did.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she was married to that Dave ---

IRENE: Dave ---

DOROTHEA: Calloway.

IRENE: Calloway. No, that was ---

DOROTHEA: But they were both cremated.

IRENE: Was that Nancy?

DOROTHEA: No, that was Mary Kay.

IRENE: Mary Kay.

OSCAR: Mary Kay, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Mary has only been married to that Don Hurlburt.

IRENE: Nancy. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Or Nancy, yeah. And she's just a single lady now.

IRENE: Yeah, yeah. Oh, we done some dumb things. Crazy things.

DOROTHEA: Well we needed, I heard you in there laughing, and I thought we need to get some of this down on tape.

IRENE: Well, Sheila and I was laughing --- or Serena and I was laughing about ---

OSCAR: The best part of the story was going on in there.

IRENE: Whatever happened to us ---

DOROTHEA: We couldn't hear it in here, so I had to get it in here. IRENE: Oh, shoot. Some of the ---

SERENA SWIGERT: One time Daddy shot the, gunner shot the struts off the airplane.

IRENE: Yeah, he did. He was out shooting coyotes, and shot, shot a big hole in the struts, and all that was holding it was just along the edge, wasn't it?

OSCAR: Yeah. Just enough.

IRENE: Made it back home though.

OSCAR: Just enough.

IRENE: Just enough to hold the wing on.

DOROTHEA: Did you say, did you say you're supposed to shoot the coyotes, guy?

SERENA: No, he came in and said, "I came in on a wing and a prayer." (Laughter)

BARBARA: And that's the truth.

DOROTHEA: And that was the truth.



IRENE: And that's the way it was. Would you girls like a glass of iced tea?

BARBARA: I'm fine.

DOROTHEA: I'm fine.

IRENE: I'd be glad to get you one.

DOROTHEA: I'm fine. Well Oscar, this has been enjoyable. We've really enjoyed some of your stories, and some of your experiences. Can you think of anything else that you would like to add on to this?

OSCAR: Well, when I'm trying to do something, I can't think of anything. Later on I can.

DOROTHEA: After we leave, well that's the way with us. We'll say, "Oh darn, we wanted to ask him about something else."

OSCAR: Later on I can. But that's the way it is.

IRENE: He did get this award at ---

BARBARA: Oregon State Aeronautics Divisions, Certificate of Distinguished Service. Presented to Oscar Davis in recognition of outstanding service in aviation in Oregon. November 21st, 1977.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's been not too long ago.

IRENE: Not too long ago. Uh huh.

BARBARA: Very nice. Very nice.

DOROTHEA: So, how about let's take a picture of that, and we can put that on there. Can you think of anything else, Irene?

IRENE: No.

DOROTHEA: Serena, can you think of anything that should be added onto this?

SERENA: Oh, I don't know, of course you know, your dad is always

--- nobody lives up to your father, of course. (Laughter) I remember when I soloed, and

Daddy used to always walk away, go back to the house. And I was sitting there, and he put his hat on my head and hit it, and he said, "Just remember this hat isn't going to get you back." (Laughter) When I went up, and I turned around, and I made the approach to land, there was Daddy still standing, waiting for me to land. I don't know what he thought he could do. But he didn't turn around and go back to the house.

IRENE: Apparently he didn't trust you. He must not have trusted you.

SERENA: Must not have trusted me. But I made it!

DOROTHEA: Well you know the terrible part of it is, is we know all these terrible things that can happen that kids don't think about. IRENE: Yeah, don't think about.

DOROTHEA: And that's the terrible part of it.

IRENE: Yeah, yeah, that's right.

DOROTHEA: I'm teaching my grandson how to rake hay this morning. That is what I spent my morning doing.

IRENE: Oh.

OSCAR: Oh.

DOROTHEA: I said, "I love this part of my life."

IRENE: This part.

DOROTHEA: This is called nervous wreck time.

IRENE: Are we having fun?

BARBARA: Was it more nervous teaching your children to fly, than it was another person?

OSCAR: Oh, I don't know. It was --- I suppose if you was an inexperienced instructor at the time, why it probably would. But after you'd instructed for years and everything, you figure you could pretty well understand people and things, and what they would do. Why,

it's not so bad.

BARBARA: And you knew your children pretty well, so you knew what they might do.

OSCAR: Yeah, yeah.

IRENE: Maybe he just wanted the ride back home. He didn't want to have to walk back to the house.

DOROTHEA: He might have had a method in his theory there.

IRENE: Yeah, yeah. He didn't want to have to walk back up to the house.

SERENA: Now that wasn't what his students told me. That he was rougher on us kids than he was on anybody else.

IRENE: Oh, was he?

SERENA: Yes.

OSCAR: Oh, I probably, I probably was.

SERENA: Yeah, I think you were.

IRENE: When he taught --- do you remember old man Bradeen?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

IRENE: Ott taught him to fly when he was, he started flying at 63. And Ott taught him to fly. And he actually flew by himself. He got ---

OSCAR: Oh hell, he flew by himself for about, oh it must have been about six or seven years.

IRENE: Do you know that old guy was totally deaf? And Ott couldn't talk to him while they were up there flying. After they got down, then he would have to talk to him. That would be a terrible thing.

OSCAR: Yeah, I had to shut her down and talk to him on the ground. IRENE: Because he couldn't hear, see. He had to take out his hearing aid.

DOROTHEA: And what was his --- that wasn't ---

IRENE: That was Bill's dad.

DOROTHEA: Bill's dad.

OSCAR: Bill's dad.

DOROTHEA: I don't remember what his name was. Was he ---

IRENE: What was his ---

OSCAR: Jess.

IRENE: Jess Bradeen.

OSCAR: Jess Bradeen.

DOROTHEA: That's right.

IRENE: Yes sir, he taught him to fly at the age of 63.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

IRENE: The old fellow wanted to fly, and by golly Ott stayed with him until he did. It took quite awhile. Took quite a few hours. DOROTHEA: But he did fly.

IRENE: Yes, he did.

OSCAR: Yeah, he did. He got a private license, and he flew, he flew around quite a few places.

IRENE: And he got a private license. That old guy got his private license. And he flew.

BARBARA: Do any of your grandchildren fly?

IRENE: No.

OSCAR: Not that I know of.

IRENE: Nope.

OSCAR: Probably all know better than that, probably. Smarter.

SERENA: ... a grandson that would love to, but can't afford it.

OSCAR: They get smarter. They get smarter as time goes on.

IRENE: It's so expensive anymore.

DOROTHEA: Well that's the problem. My son flew for a while until he had to start paying for it, and then he quit flying.

IRENE: Yeah. It's pretty expensive.

OSCAR: By god, I tell you it's expensive as hell now.

IRENE: It's an expensive pastime ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it's a hobby and ---

IRENE: --- if you're using it as a hobby.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

IRENE: We done, we had some rough times, but we did it as a living from 19 --- what '45. Well while you was in the service.

OSCAR: Yeah.

IRENE: About 1941.

OSCAR: It's just like other things; it's just like farming or ranching. It's either feast or famine.

IRENE: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: How many grandchildren do you have?

IRENE: We got six.

DOROTHEA: Six.

IRENE: And two great-grandchildren.

DOROTHEA: My goodness.

IRENE: Yeah.

BARBARA: I think Carl's son was in my son's class in high school.

IRENE: Oh, was he?

OSCAR: Oh, he was?

BARBARA: He played football with him.

IRENE: I'll be darned.

OSCAR: Yeah.

IRENE: Yeah. He's in, up in, around Seattle.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

IRENE: Yeah. And ---

DOROTHEA: Do they have children?

IRENE: No children.

DOROTHEA: No children yet.

IRENE: One of the twins has two. And the other twin is doing nurses training in Bend. And she works at St. Charles, the other twin. And Judy, she has the two, a boy and a girl.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Can you give us the names of all the grandkids?

IRENE: Well there is Judy and Trudy Davis.

DOROTHEA: Let's get their married names too.

IRENE: Oh, Judy Hofman. Trudy Hoke.

DOROTHEA: And Judy's got the kids?

IRENE: And Judy has the two children. Trudy she doesn't have any. And then John ---

DOROTHEA: And they don't have any?

IRENE: They have no children. And then Kendra, she just got married.

SERENA: Carter.

IRENE: Carter. That's Serena's.

DOROTHEA: And her name was?

IRENE: Was Swigert.

DOROTHEA: Swigert.

IRENE: S W I G E R T.

OSCAR: I spelled it wrong, didn't I?

DOROTHEA: E R T.

IRENE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: I was looking on the picture up there.

OSCAR: I put an E instead of an I.

IRENE: Yeah, yeah, Serena painted that.

DOROTHEA: I G A R T.

BARBARA: E R T.

DOROTHEA: E R T.

IRENE: E R T.

DOROTHEA: E R T.

IRENE: Uh huh,

SERENA: Like the astronaut.

IRENE: Yeah. And then Scott Swigert.

DOROTHEA: Oh, what's her last name? Carter.

IRENE: Carter now.

DOROTHEA: C.

SERENA: Uh huh.

IRENE: And Scott Swigert. And then Jody Tuter.

DOROTHEA: T.

IRENE: U T E R.

BARBARA: Who was it that John married?

IRENE: He married the ---

DOROTHEA: Was it one of the ---

OSCAR: Beth ---

IRENE: Beth ---

DOROTHEA: Luttmann.

BARBARA: Luttmann girls. Uh huh.

IRENE: She teaches school.

BARBARA: I remember that they went together in high school for a time.

IRENE: Yes, they did. And she teaches school up there.

BARBARA: Oh, good.

IRENE: She has taught, well I guess practically ever since they've been up there. And he works in --- is it Pay 'N Pak?

OSCAR: Oh, it's something --- some company store.

IRENE: A big company store is where he works.

DOROTHEA: Up in Seattle?

IRENE: Uh huh.

OSCAR: Seattle or Tacoma. Tacoma ---

DOROTHEA: And Trudy married Dale Hoke?

IRENE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And Judy is married to Carl ---

IRENE: Brad Hofman.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Brad.



IRENE: It's Brad. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: One F?

IRENE: One F.

DOROTHEA: One F, that's right. H O F.

IRENE: Yeah, one F.

BARBARA: To digress just a little bit, you say you grew up in Idaho? And did you go through all your schooling in Idaho then?

OSCAR: Yeah.

BARBARA: In Boise, or Middleton?

OSCAR: Well, Middleton, and then Notice. Notice, Idaho.

BARBARA: Notice.

OSCAR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: We forget to ask some of these questions. And there is part of them that we know about. So --- Well, Barbara, can you think of anything else? We've just about covered ---

IRENE: Covered the whole life.

BARBARA: Oh, hardly. (Laughter) It's like you say, you can always think of things to ask after you leave, that you wished you'd asked.

OSCAR: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah, of course there would be. Scads of things.

BARBARA: So, how many little airports did they have around Burns? You say Roe had a little one out by the high school.

OSCAR: Did have, yeah.

BARBARA: And you had one out here across from the Grange. And there was the City Airport, and Daryl Eggleston had ---

IRENE: No.

OSCAR: No.

BARBARA: Did he not have anything?

OSCAR: No.

IRENE: Tom Choate did, up on the hill.

OSCAR: Tom Choate did up on the hill.

BARBARA: Okay. So you had about three, or maybe four little airports going here at one time?

IRENE: Uh huh.

OSCAR: Roe's was, Roe's was closed ---

IRENE: Roe's was closed up though by the time we had ours out here by the ---

OSCAR: The high school, the high school was in there by the time we put ours in.

BARBARA: I see.

IRENE: It was closed.

SERENA: Daddy, there was the one by Poteet.

IRENE: Well, that was years ago, honey.

OSCAR: Well that was the old original, pre-war, the one before World War II.

IRENE: That was the old original airport out by, there by the Grange Hall.

OSCAR: The one before World War II. That's where we done our early flying.

DOROTHEA: That's where Roe and Daryl first started.

OSCAR: Yeah. And that's where; I flew off of there too. Yeah.

IRENE: That's where he was flying off of when we started going together.

OSCAR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Now that was the only airport here at that time?

OSCAR: At that time. That was the only one at that time.

IRENE: The only one.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Yeah, and that was in the late '30's, wasn't it?

OSCAR: Yeah. They closed that up after World War II started.

IRENE: About '36.

OSCAR: They closed it.

IRENE: But that was the old original.

BARBARA: And then Roe had his over by the high school?

OSCAR: Yeah, then he built one over there.

BARBARA: After he had his wrecking yard up there on the hill?

OSCAR: Yeah.

IRENE: Uh huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: About how many years did he run that, do you remember?

OSCAR: Oh god, he was up on the hill there quite awhile.

IRENE: Yeah, but --- and then down where he had his airport, what was it?

OSCAR: Oh, god damn, quite awhile, run the airport quite awhile there.

IRENE: Fifteen years, ten?

OSCAR: Must have been ten anyway.

IRENE: See Roe quit flying quite awhile, quite awhile back.

OSCAR: Well after he broke his leg.

IRENE: Yeah, Roe didn't fly much.

OSCAR: He had that bad break, why he quit.

IRENE: Roe didn't fly much in later life.

BARBARA: Was the airstrip sort of parallel to where our highway is now, or how did the

approach go?

OSCAR: No, no, it run --- the highway is like this see, and they run like that. It run right up the canyon.

IRENE: Right up that canyon.

DOROTHEA: Where the churches are now, there used to be a canyon up through there.

IRENE: Yeah, there was a canyon up through there. And that's the way the runway went.

OSCAR: And back where the --- had the balloons, back of the school. See that was the lower end of the airport there, you come right out down through --- took off downhill pretty near entirely. Taxi up hill, and takeoff downhill.

IRENE: Uh huh. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: That was all open country.

IRENE: There was nothing up there at that time. No houses, no nothing at that time.

DOROTHEA: And that, they named that road that goes through there to those churches, the Roe Davis road.

IRENE: Uh huh. He donated that property.

DOROTHEA: Oh, to the ---

IRENE: He had an agreement that they would name a street after him.

DOROTHEA: Oh, well that was a good idea.

IRENE: So that was a good idea.

BARBARA: So there was sort of a lot of open territory between Burns and Hines at that time.

OSCAR: Oh, it was all open. There was nothing out there but sagebrush.

BARBARA: Yeah, uh huh.

IRENE: That was open.

OSCAR: Oh gee, yes. No, I was out there with Roe when he was getting ready to, thinking about buying that property. And we was looking it over, and sagebrush up to your head out there. Like Roe said, well damn it, these towns are going to grow together, and I don't know how long it will be, but that was, that was before World War II, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: Says the only way they'll grow, is grow together.

BARBARA: So this is a good piece of property to own, then?

OSCAR: Yeah, this is a piece of property to own, and he bought it.

BARBARA: He was pretty smart then.

OSCAR: Yeah, he bought it a long while ago. Yeah. And he says too, he says the water line, the end of the water line comes right over there. He knew where the end of the water line was. He had checked it out. So there was water, city water out there. A lot of people didn't know that, but Roe knew it. There is a lot of people never knew that the city water went out there. But where his old house is now, the city water was there then.

DOROTHEA: Let's see now ---

OSCAR: Before World War II, the city water was there.

DOROTHEA: --- he and, can't think of the name, his wife ---

IRENE: Eleanor.

DOROTHEA: Eleanor, used to live in that little house right on, there is not a house there anymore, is there?

IRENE: Oh you mean where they lived years ago? Where the airport used to be?

DOROTHEA: There at the end of the road. Yeah.

IRENE: Where their airport used to be?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

IRENE: Yeah, their house is still there.

OSCAR: The house is still there; the house is still there.

IRENE: That little tiny green and white house.

OSCAR: Just back of ---

IRENE: You know where the old tin shop is?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

IRENE: Okay their house is right there.

OSCAR: Their house is up on this end of that up there in back of, right there.

IRENE: It's still there.

OSCAR: Oh, there's a house there.

DOROTHEA: I couldn't remember if that house was still there or not.

IRENE: It's still there.

OSCAR: It's still there, yeah. That was all moved in from Crane.

DOROTHEA: Oh, it was?

OSCAR: Yeah, he bought them buildings in Crane and moved them out there.

IRENE: Yeah, their house is still there.

BARBARA: Did they move it on an old truck bed or something?

OSCAR: Yeah, I suppose, but the tin shop, why they tore it down in pieces, the walls down and loaded them on a truck and hauled them, and set it back up.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I know ---

OSCAR: But the house they moved in, and they moved it on moving wheels. Pat, what the hell is the guy's name?

DOROTHEA: McCurdy used to live in that house, didn't he?

IRENE: Yes, yes.

OSCAR: Yeah. I was trying to think who moved that house in from Crane. I know the guy if I could think of his name.

DOROTHEA: I can't think.

OSCAR: I can't think of it.

IRENE: But he lived there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, we're getting back too far now, when I was a kid and my brain doesn't work back that far. (Laughter) When you see this light going on again, well you tell us, we're about ready to quit.

OSCAR: Okay.

IRENE: You're about through, huh?

DOROTHEA: Well Barbara is learning some new history facts around here. She probably didn't realize that that was an old sagebrush hill at one time.

IRENE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: But Roe was --- I remember when he, they lived there in that house.

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And I thought it was still there, but I couldn't remember ---

OSCAR: Yeah, it's still there. Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: --- if it was or not.

IRENE: He used to live up there where Ray Weeks' house is, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

OSCAR: The house was a little smaller than Ray's.

IRENE: Yeah, the house was quite a bit smaller than Ray's.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, just a small bit. Yeah.

OSCAR: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Now did Ray Weeks buy a piece of that ground from Roe? Or who was that?

OSCAR: Well I suppose he did. I suppose probably he bought it all.

IRENE: I suppose. I don't know.

OSCAR: And then he probably sold that to the museum, to the city, to the county.

DOROTHEA: We just went through this, and ---

OSCAR: Put that in --- who'd he buy that from?

BARBARA: Ray Weeks bought it from Roe.

OSCAR: Roe, that's what I thought. I thought that's the way it was. Yeah.

IRENE: I presumed he did.

DOROTHEA: He bought so many, I think its lots.

OSCAR: It was all in lots, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

IRENE: Yeah.

BARBARA: Well you said out at the airport you lived in this beautiful little house ---

IRENE: Yes, we did.

BARBARA: How many different places have you lived here in Burns?

IRENE: Oh, we lived --- I've lived in a lot of places here in Burns through our lifetime.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

IRENE: But we lived in town in three or four different places, maybe five, I don't know. And then we lived out there at the city airport. And then we moved to our Finley property. So we've lived in a lot of places here in town, rented.

BARBARA: Uh huh. How many different places were you when you were in the service?



OSCAR: Oh, we went to Wenatchee first.

IRENE: We was in Bend first.

OSCAR: Wenatchee, Washington, and then Bend.

IRENE: We was in Bend, Wenatchee, Bend, Caldwell, Missoula.

OSCAR: Caldwell and Missoula.

DOROTHEA: You didn't travel very far then.

IRENE: No, no.

DOROTHEA: Stayed right here at home.

IRENE: So we got to stay right here.

OSCAR: Wound up in Missoula.

BARBARA: So when did you go into the service, and when did you get out?

OSCAR: Oh.

IRENE: Went in in '41, wasn't it? '42, maybe '42. Must have been '42, because you was born in '41.

OSCAR: I'd have to dig my discharge papers out.

IRENE: '42. I don't remember the month, but it was '42. And then he got out in '45.

OSCAR: Discharged in '45.

IRENE: He instructed --- his first instruction in Bend was with the Navy.

OSCAR: Yeah, I run a Navy class there.

IRENE: Had a Navy, they were Navy cadets.

BARBARA: So you just instructed during the whole time that you were in the service then?

OSCAR: Yeah.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

OSCAR: Yeah. Oh, Wenatchee, I was taking advanced instructors course up there, military course. But then, all was instructing after that.

DOROTHEA: And the light, she doth blink, so that means that we'd better close off.

IRENE: That's --- it's all over, good.

DOROTHEA: And we'd like to thank you for your time, and for giving us this tape.

IRENE: We enjoyed getting to visit with you gals.

DOROTHEA: It's enjoyable to get around and talk to the people that were younger at one time, but now we're getting in that same group.

IRENE: Yeah, we are.

DOROTHEA: And one thing I would like to say, you know, how Burns has grown, and you were talking about instructing in Bend. And that is a place that has really grown.

IRENE: Oh, gosh, you can't believe it.

OSCAR: Oh, gee. Should have been buying property over there, instead of instructing.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

IRENE: Yeah, yeah, it has really grew.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, you wouldn't be able to even find your place anymore probably. Well thank you again for your time, and we've enjoyed this afternoon. And if you want a copy of this, it will be up in the library. And so you're ---

IRENE: We can get a copy.

DOROTHEA: You can get a copy up there.

IRENE: Okay.

DOROTHEA: So thanks again.

(END OF TAPE)

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