

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #220 - Sides A/B/C/D/E

Subject: Freight Trail - Burns to Vale

Place:

Date: 1973

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

LEE WILLIAMS: ... the soldiers a scout, an Indian scout here years ago, and this was, he told us about that when we lived in the trailer park, right across from the Malheur River here. This was the only crossing on the river that they could cross with a solid bottom.

MARCUS HAINES: Well ---

LEE: That's how the town of Drewsey came to be here.

MARCUS: The river is a little boggy then, Lee.

LEE: What?

MARCUS: The river is boggy in places then.

LEE: Oh, yeah. Take those heavy rigs, you know, they couldn't cross just anywhere. Those old big freight wagons, I guess, were as heavy as a railroad car, some of them.

MARCUS: Oh yes ...

LEE: How much of this --- do you want to follow the exact track of this, Pauline?

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Well, Marcus is driving. I'm willing to go any-where he can drive.

MARCUS: This is ... Juniper Canyon ...

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Okay. Well the road went right through here. Right through where the barn is, where the shed is. We'll go in at the barn out there, go right down through the field there, and follow the thing.

PAULINE: Now this is where French's live now, but ---

LEE: Yeah, yeah.

PAULINE: --- but this is the ---

LEE: Right here.

PAULINE: This is the Williams ---

LEE: Yeah, this is what they call the upper ranch. This at one time belonged to a man by the name of Libery (sp.?). He was a brother to Mrs. Murphy, who was the mother of Bill, and John, and Jim, and those Murphys. And ---

MARCUS: Go through this gate?

LEE: Yeah, this gate right here. This one right here. For some reason or other was in the --- he was judged insane, and in the asylum. And when Dad bought the ranch, why he had to get the deed signed by his sister, who was Mrs. Murphy. There used to be a house stand right down in the corner. And when this was all sagebrush, why the wintertime, fall of the year, why people that were out of a job would grub sagebrush. And I think they --- what was a \$1.00 an acre I believe that they got for ---

PAULINE: For grubbing. So this right out in here wasn't ---

LEE: Well this was all mixed in --- well the road came right down along that wash, and right down through the field here.

PAULINE: Yeah. And this was all big sagebrush?

LEE: This was all big sagebrush in here. And just follow the road right down through the haystack there. Johnny Muldrick, from Canyon City, is pretty well known over, or was at one time ... Grant County, owned this place right here.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: There was two graves. The house stood down there, on the other side of where those cattle are --- along about the point is. Those willows --- but one of them was a Wiley

child. And I don't know who the other grave belonged to. But they moved the Wiley grave, or the remains over back to Canyon City.

MARCUS: I imagine this got a little boggy in the spring of the year here, didn't it?

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: This is where I thought we were.

LEE: This where --- we're about on the old road. No, this was pretty dry in here. It was kind of a sandy soil and it was built up from Sand Creek. No, it didn't, until we started irrigating it, it didn't get, didn't get soft.

MARCUS: I thought it might be adobe.

LEE: No, it's all sand.

MARCUS: --- driving over here.

LEE: It's all sand. We're just about on the old tracks now. This wash, of course, has been filled up as years have gone on. It was, at that time when this place was fenced up, my dad fenced it in 1912, when the place was fenced up. That was when the road was changed around over the hills.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: The freighters didn't like that very well.

MARCUS: When did your folks come to Drewsey, Lee?

LEE: '94. My dad, my granddad's dad came here in '94.

MARCUS: My mother came through here in '96, on her way over to the lake.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: I don't know what year ---

MARCUS: She come from Idaho.

LEE: Let's see, I don't know which would be the best way to get through here. I guess go through this right hand; I think maybe we can get through the gate. She came in through

here in '96?

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: Did she ride the stages through here?

MARCUS: No, no. she came in a wagon. Yeah.

LEE: Yeah. Well my dad, my granddad ---

MARCUS: Go through this gate over here?

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: We can eliminate one, if we can.

LEE: I think we can, we'll see. Somebody has been through there once upon a time.

MARCUS: ... gate, isn't it?

LEE: Is it wired up? It's all wired up.

MARCUS: I think it's clear across there.

LEE: I think I made a mistake.

MARCUS: Yeah, it looks like.

LEE: Yeah. You never know about ---

MARCUS: Frenchie through haying?

LEE: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, they finished up there awhile back. Well, go up to the well up there and we'll get through up there. I know we can get through up there.

PAULINE: My grandmother came into this country the same way.

LEE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And, but I don't --- Daddy didn't say what year.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: But ---

MARCUS: Well this ---

PAULINE: She wanted to walk over the top of the Strawberry while the men were

harnessing up the horses.

LEE: Yeah. (Laughter)

PAULINE: And my great uncle told her that that was fine, he didn't care, but she better take a lunch and a sleeping bag along if she was going to walk over there. But she didn't realize the distances involved.

LEE: I guess this gate's open here. Can you see a gate up there?

MARCUS: No, I don't, unless it's up there ---

LEE: Try to the right of the ryegrass there. Right through here.

MARCUS: Right through here somewhere.

LEE: Oh, a little farther up. Now then ---

PAULINE: There it is.

LEE: Here it is right here, see it?

MARCUS: There's another one up here, why don't we try it?

LEE: Yeah, that will be better. Boy, they've made some improvements since I was through here last. I didn't know this gate was up ---

MARCUS: Lined up that weeds in my drive shaft, I don't like that. Oh yeah, this is a rather portable gate here. It's clouding up on us a little, Pauline. I should have brought the overshoes this morning.

PAULINE: Oh, I hope not.

MARCUS: So do I. ... that I didn't bring my chains. The way it looked yesterday, it looked like we were in for some good weather.

PAULINE: Yeah, it --- I told my brother Jim, I said, "If we don't show back up home in three or four days, why ..."

MARCUS: Well we'll have to get back over there now. I hope ... is that water out there in front of us?

LEE: Well, I don't know. It wouldn't surprise me a damn bit. Yes, it is. Now he didn't say a goddamn thing about that, did he?

MARCUS: No, he didn't. Where can we get around it, up through here?

LEE: No, the culvert is down here. Let's go down here and cross, and maybe we can get --- it looks like there is water clear across there though.

MARCUS: Is that where we cross over on top of that area over there?

LEE: Yeah, right over top of that cow.

MARCUS: I don't know just how much sod is around here.

LEE: Well sometimes it's not very --- it looks like it is all water out across there.

MARCUS: Yeah, it sure does Lee. It's soft right here, I think.

LEE: Yeah, maybe a lot of that is just frost. Maybe a lot of its just frost. Stay down to the south of it here.

MARCUS: Maybe it's all frost, I don't know. It looks like water now.

LEE: Nope, that's just frost. It's just frost, I thought ---

MARCUS: No, it's water. Water right here.

LEE: Well I know there is water over there, but this out in here I don't think its any water. This looks like water over here though, don't it?

MARCUS: Uh huh. Water right there. (Laughter) I saw a splash. (Laughter)

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: What do you think?

LEE: Well ---

MARCUS: I can get the four-wheel drive and --- We don't want to tear the meadow up either.

LEE: I'm not worried about that; I'm worried about getting stuck.

MARCUS: Well, we don't want to get stuck. It looks like pretty good sod here, but it may

not be as good as it looks.

LEE: It's all sand under it.

MARCUS: Well, we had better get out of here then.

LEE: This seems to all be water, don't it?

MARCUS: Uh huh. You want to get on it?

LEE: Well for christ's sake.

MARCUS: Boy, we are stuck there.

LEE: See what's on the other side.

MARCUS: Well for goodness sakes.

PAULINE: Oh, dear.

MARCUS: I want to get out of here.

LEE: Well let's go back up, and get back on the other road.

MARCUS: ... We've had more after growth this year than we've had in years and years, and I don't know why.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Did you have it, find that true too?

LEE: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: No rain, no nothing, you know.

LEE: No. But we have water now. Huh?

MARCUS: But we had it anyway.

LEE: We had more water than we had for a long time, later. I know this river held up real good here. But this, French here used these pumps up there this year for the first time.

MARCUS: Oh.

LEE: Since he's been here, to amount to anything. Kept his ground wet.

MARCUS: I guess this wire is all off here.

LEE: Yeah, it's off. I don't know whether there was ever any wire on it or not. Damn, I wanted to show you --- Robbins' field.

PAULINE: Pete Robbins?

LEE: Pete Robbins.

PAULINE: Yeah. He was one of the ---

MARCUS: One of the old timers here, wasn't he?

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Well what relation was he to Abner Robbins?

LEE: I don't know. I don't know if he was related to him. ...

MARCUS: Well this Robbins place up here, was that some of the same ---

LEE: That's Abner, that was Abner Robbins.

MARCUS: That was Abner.

LEE: Yeah. He was the store man and --- Now you might be getting into water up here.

MARCUS: Yeah. It's a little funny right here.

LEE: No, I guess not. It's just --- didn't look like it. Yeah, Robbins and --- oh, Perrington owned this, started this store up here.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: No.

LEE: Huh? Perrington, Perrington, something, I don't know.

MARCUS: Well Perrington had a mill up above Harney too.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Probably some of the same people.

LEE: If --- I don't know whether this fellow's name was Perrington or Perringun. Something like that. We were standing right here one time and there was a blast on that side hill for that ditch line. And another kid and I was standing here, and they set off a

blast there. And after the dust settled down and everything --- we just started to move, and this rock, about as big as a gallon bucket dropped right down between us.

PAULINE: Oh dear!

MARCUS: Must have been right there, from the way the rocks are scattered.

LEE: Well no, it was, the blast went off back down there. We was standing right there, about there. We was on that knoll ---

MARCUS: ... right up there, hadn't he?

LEE: Yeah, they done a lot of blasting along here. Pretty near all of this work through here was rockwork. Those old Swedes, you know, drilled those holes by hand. They'd get in a hurry, they was pretty near always two men a striking steel on each hole, sometimes three and four. And they'd put a quarter, about a quarter a stick of powder down in the hole there and put a plug in the top, and what they call spring in the hole then. Drill a hole for about that big, then they got that spring ...

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: And then they'd put dynamite and black powder down in there, and that's what they ---

PAULINE: They were blasting out an irrigation ditch?

LEE: Yes, that was that Drewsey reclamation ditch.

MARCUS: Did you ever know of Bear Dog Brown?

LEE: Huh?

MARCUS: Did you ever know of a Bear Dog Brown?

LEE: Of a Bear Dog Brown?

MARCUS: Yeah. He was a, had one leg short. He got killed, he was a powder man. He got killed over there on the railroad. ... old Bear Dog Brown but anyway, he was tapping powder with a crowbar.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: And off she went. About the time that the smoke cleared away, somebody drove up and said, "Where's Mr. Bear Dog Brown?" And one of the fellows said, "Well he just went across the canyon. If he comes back as fast as he went over, he ought to be here most any time."

PAULINE: Oh, no. (Laughter)

MARCUS: Stacked hay for us down at the ... Ranch. We were camped down there in the Little Red "S". And we got in these old --- had an old Chevrolet. This was a long time ago, over 50 years ago.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well they weren't much cars in those days, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Started over to the Lawen Store. We hadn't been moved out yet, to the original site. And coming back, we turned ---

LEE: ... ride back.

MARCUS: Yeah, might as well. We followed a bunch of cows along there, and the dust was so thick, of course no lights on the thing. And off old Bear Dog went in that ditch there on that turn.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: So he gave her the gun, a little soft down in there, and gave her the gun and tore the rear end out of it. So we walked over and slept in the haystack there, right close to Thompson's house that night. As soon as it was daylight enough to see the next morning why we headed for hay camp. Took us a couple hours to walk in. Fine old, ... he was a Swede. He lived on snoose.

LEE: Is ah ---

PAULINE: Well why did they call him Bear Dog? Was there a, was there a story involved?

MARCUS: Yeah, there was some kind of a bear dog, called him Bear Dog; he always had a dog or two with him. And in fact ... I think back then the old car was full of dogs.

LEE: A lot of these old powder men was going to Burns, I guess. There's my brother's car. Had a box of caps in his pocket. It got late and he was full of whiskey, I guess, and laid down and started a fire, and got a fire, got his clothes on fire. And happened to think about his box of caps in his pocket, and just as he reached in his pocket to throw the caps away, why they went off and blew his hand off.

PAULINE: Oh, gosh!

MARCUS: Those dynamite caps was pretty lethal weapons.

LEE: Yeah. Charlie Storms, he was a real good powder man. There's some water all over down there, isn't there?

MARCUS: Yep.

PAULINE: Yep.

LEE: We were haying here a number of years ago before my dad died. Pete's house stood right behind that knoll.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: He came along and visited with us there for a while. I don't know when my dad bought the place from him, along about in 1910, along in there somewhere. I'll never forget when they built this fence line. This was put here in 1912. A big lot of those posts down there were the ones that they started. Now we go through this gate here, Marcus. Just around there, and take Pauline around to where --- get her back on the road.

MARCUS: You didn't believe me when I told you; you better stay in the middle.

PAULINE: Yeah. Yeah, I knew where I was ---

MARCUS: Listen to her.

PAULINE: I know what I was doing.

MARCUS: I didn't --- I was just kidding. I didn't suppose you had any gates.

PAULINE: Well --- fenced, everything is fenced anymore.

MARCUS: I guess, it sure is, isn't it?

PAULINE: Was that Bud Morris that is putting in all that fencing out over Wright's Point there, between the Point and the cemetery? It's all new steel fence all the way along there.

MARCUS: Yeah. A part of that, there is a half a mile there that belongs to the Island Ranch, the first fence you hit.

PAULINE: First --- the first fence.

MARCUS: The fence line is cleared with Cat.

LEE: You're riding across the former Miller and Lux forty right here now.

PAULINE: Oh, this was ---

MARCUS: Oh.

PAULINE: --- the Miller and Lux, the PLS Company stuff.

LEE: This was the Miller and Lux forty. Yep.

PAULINE: Yep.

LEE: Yep. This is ---

MARCUS: Was there water on it, Lee?

LEE: Yeah, there was a spring, Cook Springs right up there about where those cattle are.

MARCUS: Oh, yeah.

LEE: Milt Davis slipped around and bought the thing, and about the next year after he bought it the spring went dry.

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sake.

MARCUS: Oh. Never run since?

LEE: Never run since. There was quite a, quite a happening.

MARCUS: Is this --- there comes the drainage from that --- it comes in ---

LEE: No, this is Sand Creek. This is Sand Creek; it drains the top of this Drewsey table. That's --- you hear them talk about the Drewsey table?

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Well that's the Drewsey tables. And this Sand Creek comes right down that deep gash right back up there. You see the timber in it?

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: But it drains all the top of that table there, it's pretty big area up in there.

PAULINE: In know now what it was I forgot that I was going to bring. I had a Metsker's map of Harney County and Malheur County, and I was going to chart this thing on there as we went.

LEE: I wish that --- I've been wanting to see one of those. The first day we get a chance I'll take you over the old road from Drewsey across to Buchanan.

PAULINE: All right.

LEE: I'll show you where I was born.

PAULINE: Okay.

MARCUS: We're going to have to have the Metsker's map for that too, sounds like.

PAULINE: Yeah. Yeah, sounds like it maybe. Well I thought maybe if we had it along, we might be able to see where ---

MARCUS: You bet.

PAULINE: --- better than trying to figure it out when we got home. But I --- it cost me a \$1.50 too, to get that one ---

MARCUS: Where did you get it?

PAULINE: --- Malheur County. Harris', Bairds. Hale's, whatever he calls the place now.

MARCUS: Those are quite good maps.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: In most cases they're pretty accurate.

PAULINE: Well, we had our own Harney County Metsker's, but --- well, we got it when we were first married. Now I got one here the other day, a newer edition, and there is quite a few changes.

LEE: There is a lot of changes, a person would want, where you're following something like this, you'd want one of the oldest ones you could find.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

LEE: 'Cause they change a lot of the names. Out there where those Carpenters live, that spring has got a name, and you know I spoke that name one day, and it just got away from me and I haven't been able to remember what that was to this day, the name of that spring.

MARCUS: Have you met this fellow Carpenter? I suppose you have

LEE: I've seen him. I don't --- I never met him. I've met his wife and daughter, and his two boys, and her mother, but I don't think that I've ever ---

MARCUS: They must be a peculiar bunch, from what I hear.

LEE: He is. The women folks are --- the boys are just, seem like anybody else. But they say he's ---

MARCUS: Kind of off in left field, I think, with a lot of his thinking, from what I understand.

LEE: Apparently.

MARCUS: I suppose if we'd of got through there, we'd of came out this gate right here.

PAULINE: Yeah. We'd have --- It looks like this is about where we were headed before.

MARCUS: Uh huh. We were over here.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: On the there side of that knoll there. Yeah, that's one of them, or both of them, or something.

LEE: Looks like there has been some hunters in here. Might have been Terry, his outfit.

MARCUS: This is your property now?

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: You had a rye field up in here someplace?

LEE: Yeah, right around here a little further. I had Laddie Clark haul the rock in last winter to make a dam across the creek down there. And he ---

MARCUS: He made the road over here?

LEE: He made the ruts. No, he made those ruts over there.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's what I mean.

LEE: Yeah. ...

MARCUS: ... that's your name all right.

LEE: Yep. ... get on your coat tails.

PAULINE: Yeah, well I'm straddled out over the whole seat here. I don't know what my daughter is going to wear to school today. I snagged onto her coat again.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Oh.

PAULINE: That's her problem! I left the house first. She can figure out ---

MARCUS: She'll probably just freeze to death today. ... What are we seeing up here on the hill, is that dust, dirt pushed out or what?

LEE: No, no that's sand rock.

MARCUS: It is, huh?

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Quite a pile of dirt.

LEE: Yeah, looks like a pile of sand. For years I thought it was until I went up there, and it's sand rock. That road came through; you can see the gateposts ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: --- that old road line there comes right along this wash right here.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: There was a --- You're on the old Geddings place. Al Geddings that was sheriff of Harney County at one time. This is where he lived. This is Pete Robbins; I believe married one of the girls. Ralph Crow married one, or Bart Crow married one. And John Thomas married one. Here's a part of the old track right here. I've plowed this and farmed this, but I've never been able to get rid of the ruts. See, right there?

PAULINE: Yeah. Oh, for heavens sakes.

LEE: I wanted to ---

MARCUS: You want to stay on this?

LEE: Keep going; just keep going right straight ahead, yeah. There's some graves around the point of that hill. There was three families of people from Missouri came here, Gibblers, and Geddings, and the Stewarts. And this is the Geddings place here. The log house and barn, and corral sat right there.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: There's a patch of ryegrass right here. And that was one of the stage stops. Some people by the name of Patterson lived there, and kept the station, the horses, when I can first remember.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: But Al Geddings was sheriff of Harney County, and he appointed a deputy, and

somewhere down the line the deputy got away with some money, and Al Geddings took the blame for it. He left the country, and finally come back. He is buried up there in the Drewsey cemetery.

PAULINE: Un huh.

MARCUS: Did he find the deputy?

LEE: I don't know if he did or not. I don't know what the upshot of the thing was. He felt pretty bad about it, my dad told me. It just pretty near broke him up. He was apparently a trusted man that he appointed deputy.

MARCUS: You had to be pretty tough to be a sheriff in those days, didn't you?

LEE: Apparently you did. Knowing some of the old time sheriffs.

MARCUS: Yeah, you wouldn't want to let the guy catch you, I wouldn't think.

LEE: Nope.

MARCUS: ... the deputy ...

LEE: You didn't want one after you.

MARCUS: No, keep right on going.

LEE: Would you like to meet about anywhere from ten to fourteen horses and mules, and three wagons coming around here, Pauline?

PAULINE: Well no, I don't really think so.

LEE: If it was a buggy and team going around a narrow grade like this, you'd of stopped back there.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: And listened to see if you could hear those bells.

PAULINE: Yeah, to see if --- yeah.

LEE: I was with Charlie Cramer one time; his kids and I came around out here. It had been raining and Charlie knew that he was a coming. And he met him right along in here

somewhere. This road was pretty slick. He got around right on the point, and his wagon started to, slipping down a little bit. He let a squall out of him, and that old pointer jumped that chain and just took right straight up that side hill there.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: Pulled that wagon, those wagon wheels were cramped like this, they was --- the rest of them were pulling, and pulling side ways like that. They held it on the grade for him.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Boy, I'll tell you those horses just come alive just that quick, when he yelled at them. And they sure got up that hill.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: You're on the Stewart place now.

MARCUS: Do you still own this, Lee? This here?

LEE: Yes, we still own it.

MARCUS: What have we got above us? Is this a ditch?

LEE: Yeah, it's a ditch, ditch line.

MARCUS: From Cottonwood, would it be?

LEE: No, this ditch comes out of, from the end of the reclamation ditch around here. Although it is on the ditch line that was put through here a good many years ago, out of Otis Creek. It came back this way. It came through up here, and then came along the side hill. My wife's brother told me that he worked for, for this man Stewart one time when they was building this ditch.

PAULINE: Well here comes --- It's not a mule and a team of wagons, but we're going to have company.

LEE: Yeah. Somebody is going through there. Hunters, you know, they don't pay much

attention to trespass signs, and things. But I think this is some of Terry's hunters probably. Looks like one of their vehicles. This is some of my dollar a pound steers that I didn't get sold.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Oh, you got your steers up in here?

LEE: Yeah, on both sides of the creek. They come over on this side and up around, then they go back on the other side.

MARCUS: That's quite a ryegrass field, Lee. I haven't been up in here before.

LEE: Yeah. Yeah, this is a --- I don't know how much feed there is in here, Marcus, I would guess that if it was cut and stacked there would probably be a hundred ton of it anyway.

MARCUS: ... ditch down in here too ...

LEE: Yeah, this ah, this is the Stewart ditch. This is the one that they built when they finally got back down on the earth there.

MARCUS: Well, where did that car go, Pauline?

PAULINE: Well he went around the other ---

LEE: ... when my dad fenced the upper field up, why he changed the road from the bridge up over this hill and around the outside the fence.

MARCUS: Well, they went up through there then?

LEE: Yeah. They'll come out over there on that, old Dolly road.

PAULINE: Was there a homestead here? Or was there ---

LEE: There was a house set here in those trees, Raleigh and Charlie Stewart. Their dad was a Stewart --- child buried right up on the hill there.

MARCUS: What a ---

LEE: Keep a going right for the gate right up there, Marcus.

MARCUS: What a --- killing these folks? Was it smallpox? Was that ---

LEE: I have no idea. I don't know what ---

MARCUS: Cas Drinkwater ---

LEE: Diphtheria, diphtheria took more of these kids in here than anything I know of. Smallpox killed the Indians and quite a few of the White people I guess, or quite a few of the White people had it. But so far as I know diphtheria and typhoid fever were the two child killers.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

LEE: And it was pretty bad, I guess, at one time. Quite a few of those babies that are buried in the cemetery up there ---

MARCUS: Yeah you talked about, and you named about four graves here now, I think.

LEE: There is two of them down there in the Wiley field, and I think there was two or three, or possibly four that I wanted to show you the site of.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's what we were talking about.

LEE: Yeah, I tried to come over there, and then this one here. Coming through and making this turn, which was a square corner in those days. The freighters were cutting a little too close and the wagons would hit that corner post and break it off. Well, my dad replaced that post a number of times. Finally got disgusted with the deal and sent his men into the junipers and cut this post that you see standing there now. And one day a freighter came along and cut it a little too close, or probably intended to see if he could take the post out again. In any event, why he left a wheel on the post. The post is still there. That's what kind of a story they told me, caused the post to be a leaning a little.

MARCUS: Well that post has been there for a long time, hasn't it? That would be what, about in the early 1900's anyway, wouldn't it?

LEE: Yeah, at least in the early 1900's. I don't remember when he bought this place from

the Stewart boys, must have been around 1900. You see they came here in '94, and bought the place where I live, the Duncan Ranch. And then they added these other places as they became available.

MARCUS: Now we're looking southwest down here, we see some trees down here a mile or so, such a matter. That's your home place.

LEE: That's the Duncan place.

MARCUS: That's where you now live, and you own all this little valley in here.

LEE: Yes, I do.

MARCUS: And the upper end of the valley is known as the Stewart place.

LEE: Yes --- no, no, there's one ranch, one ranch just above us here, the Miles place, is the furthest north.

MARCUS: Well, we'll drive on up and take a look at it then.

LEE: The Stewart house stood, you can see the grave up there. See those three posts right up there on top of this little ridge right there.

PAULINE: Oh, yeah, yeah.

LEE: That's where the grave is.

MARCUS: Can you drive up there?

LEE: Yes, you can get pretty close to it; you might have to walk a little ways out there. There's a woman that lives at Tillamook or Garibaldi, comes up in this country once in awhile, her name is Gibbler. Mrs. Drinkwater knows them, my mother knew the family, and ---

MARCUS: They --- she comes and tends the graves, then?

LEE: No, she just comes and looks about them. Sees that they're still there. This ---

MARCUS: Stop right up here, so she might see us. Get a good shot at us. Along about here?

LEE: Well, I don't know too much about it other than it was a child of the Stewart family. There was two brothers, Charlie and Raleigh. And one of them was married and the daddy of this child, I believe it is Raleigh, was the one that was buried. I think Charlie was a bachelor.

There's an interesting incident that I remember after we owned the place. Looking through the old house that had been there for years, it was papered with papers printed somewhere in Missouri. And the earliest of those that I remember the date on the thing was long in the early '50's.

MARCUS: Holy smoke!

LEE: Before the Civil War.

MARCUS: Huh.

LEE: And that house was ---

MARCUS: The old house stood right down here where these ---

LEE: Right here, right in those trees, right just the other side of those trees, the first bunch of trees. Well, it was a fairly large house. It was built, of course, in the pioneer pattern. The main part of the house, and then the kitchen was built out to the side. makes a sort of a "T". It had an upstairs, and the main part of the house was the kitchen. The bedroom was built off on the side. It wasn't a lean to, it was a ---

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: --- a gable.

MARCUS: Now this is known as Otis Valley, Otis Creek, I mean Otis Creek --- Valley, but Otis Creek comes through here?

LEE: Yeah, this is Otis Creek coming down ---

MARCUS: The waters from Otis Creek.

LEE: Yeah, uh huh. We get up here a ways I'll show you where Morris Spring Creek

comes in, and Cottonwood. ...

The old freight road that came through here, the crossing was right at the end of this rocky point up, right that you see right through there. Not through this pass here, but right, right up through here. You see that bulldozer track going uphill?

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

LEE: Right at the tip of that rocky hill there, there was a rocky bottom to the creek, and that's where the wagons at one time, where they crossed there.

MARCUS: Huh.

LEE: Of course this bridge has been here in this location since I can remember. But that was prior to the days when they had such things as bridges ... This Otis Creek is just as far down as I've ever been ... mostly soft mud. ...

MARCUS: Done any buck hunting since I talked to you?

LEE: No, no.

MARCUS: ... pretty good around Drewsey. ...

LEE: ...

...

LEE: Go up this ditch around here.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: And the old road made the turn right here and went right around this little point here. See where the flat place is right there?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: Right through the fence it will come back in around here pretty quick. When Harney County got to improving the roads, why they got them to put it over this little point here instead of putting a fence around it.

MARCUS: There was a cattle guard there some time or another?

LEE: Yeah. Everett Edmundson put that; you see the road come back in here just right here?

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Right under us here.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Yeah, I see that.

LEE: This grade has been built up here over the years. Just wide enough for the freight wagons to come around here.

MARCUS: Is there a pump down in here?

LEE: Not yet. Not yet, I'm going to put --- I've got to put one there this year.

MARCUS: Where do you pump to ...

LEE: It goes into that ditch you was looking at down there.

MARCUS: Yeah, uh huh.

LEE: Now then we're on the Miles place. Or we will be as soon as we ---

MARCUS: This place has been here awhile too, hasn't it?

LEE: Yeah, but this was about the third bridge that I can remember, was here. The old original bridge run clear across where this hill is here. Run clear over, and then the bridge across the ditch.

MARCUS: Yeah.

LEE: We had high water here; I think it was in '64, I believe it was '64. And the water run clear over that fill, washed out around that bridge.

PAULINE: This is Otis Creek?

LEE: This is Duncan Ditch.

PAULINE: Oh, this is Duncan Ditch.

LEE: That was Otis Creek where the bridge was.

PAULINE: Okay.

LEE: This is an irrigating ditch here. Dug with a pick and shovel of all things.

PAULINE: Oh no, it's a little rocky too.

LEE: Now then turn right up this way, Marcus. Whoa, wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute. I want to show Pauline something, and you too, Marcus.

These elevation pegs here have been there; they should have a date on it when it was put there.

PAULINE: Uh huh. 1903?

LEE: 1903.

PAULINE: 3531 feet.

MARCUS: Oh, this is the elevation mark, huh?

LEE: That was quite a landmark. Because a lot of time people coming through this country here ... Now this was the crossing on Otis Creek, they'd say well, we'll meet you at the Otis Bridge.

PAULINE: The elevation marker, yeah.

LEE: If we're not there, why wait until we come. This was a sheep trail through here at one time.

PAULINE: They trailed sheep through here?

LEE: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, go over here, and go over the mountain.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: The first time I ever met Cecil Esposito was right here.

PAULINE: Really?

LEE: Yeah.

SIDE B

LEE: I remember the man coming up on top of this ridge, and talked to my dad one time.

I wasn't very big kid at the time. But then years afterwards I was looking around over his homestead, I found an orchard down here in these willows right below here.

PAULINE: An orchard?

LEE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Oh.

LEE: Yeah. There was quite a few trees, probably a dozen trees. At the time I discovered them, the beavers had done quite a lot of work on them. But some of them was still bearing fruit.

PAULINE: Apple trees, or ---

LEE: Yeah. The trees that were alive when I first saw them were apple trees.

PAULINE: Well, it's hard to imagine, it really is.

MARCUS: Got to get a shot of this ---

...

MARCUS: ... cattle drives ...

PAULINE: Part of it, parts of it.

MARCUS: You know he tells about living in dugouts ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: --- over here on the, in the Idaho country. ... the cattle out ...

LEE: Let's see, what is it, "Pan Bread and Jerky," have you read that?

MARCUS: No, no I haven't.

LEE: By --- you see Jack ... kind of outlined that thing.

MARCUS: Oh, he did?

LEE: Yeah. And this Walter Scott that used to live over there in Harney Valley, have you heard of him? Years ago?

MARCUS: No.

LEE: Homesteaded down there by Barton Lake.

MARCUS: Nope.

LEE: Well he's one that's telling the thing. And interestingly enough, when he gets over in the Prairie City country, and over in that Ironside country, you talk about men that I knew.

MARCUS: Well ---

LEE: Or knew their kids.

PAULINE: Yeah. Now is this actually the freight trail here?

LEE: This is the freight road here, this is actually it. This is actually the old freight road here. Len Stallard lived in that bunch of trees there.

MARCUS: Now what was he doing here?

LEE: Yeah. Huh?

MARCUS: What was he, the ---

LEE: Their dad.

MARCUS: Their dad, huh?

LEE: Ed and Chet.

MARCUS: Chet.

PAULINE: Yeah, but this isn't one of Stallard's stage stations?

LEE: Yes.

PAULINE: It is? This is it ---

LEE: Yes, that's it right there. Not the buildings, but the site. The house burned down.

PAULINE: Well why don't ... just roll the window down and take it right out the window.

MARCUS: ... we can get in there, why I might get a picture. ... stone building ...

PAULINE: Well, there's one. That's a beauty.

MARCUS: Yeah.

PAULINE: I think I've figured this out, if I get it --- I finally get it cocked, and wound, why then I can take a picture and get one. I'll just waste film until I can get it cocked and wound again. That makes it so discouraging, I'll tell you, because its been just working like a charm.

LEE: Got that no trespass sign all covered with plastic and everything, this fall why somebody come along and tore it off ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: --- and threw it down.

MARCUS: I'd like to come along with the old shotgun about that time ---

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: --- and just splatter them good.

LEE: I don't know, 30-30 probably would have been better.

PAULINE: Well, you know, that we went down to the old experiment station and I had a pickup load of hunters drive into my front yard and shoot quail out of the tree, in the front yard.

LEE: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well, there is no end to ---

LEE: Nope. Do you want to go in there?

MARCUS: Yeah. I want to get, I need a picture of a two-story house.

LEE: Oh, okay.

MARCUS: By golly, this is just what ---

LEE: This would be a good one.

MARCUS: ... this here ...

LEE: This ah, four boys camped here when they had ... they got a fire one evening, it burnt up, and it burnt everything they had up. And burnt one boy's back. That log cabin, I

don't know the history of that. Whether Stallard lived in that when he first came here, and I don't know if Stallard homesteaded this or not. But at one time this two-story house stood over across the creek over there. I'd forgotten about it.

PAULINE: Oh ...

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, we're still in it too ...

LEE: Yeah, yeah, it's getting worse too.

MARCUS: Maybe we aren't, I don't know.

LEE: Now you're all right. Now then, it's those trees there that's ---

PAULINE: ... is where the ---

LEE: Where the house stood, yeah. Right along about ...

MARCUS: Was the old schoolhouse around here, Lee?

LEE: Huh?

MARCUS: Was the old schoolhouse here?

LEE: Oh no, it was over across over there. What's the matter here pup? Huh? What's the matter here? (Dog barking)

MARCUS: Hello, Fido.

LEE: I guess --- what's the matter? ... finally went haywire, why they moved this house from the other side of the creek over here. Then they built a stockade around here to keep him in.

PAULINE: He went out a little of his head, huh?

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: That was, you know Velfa Richardson?

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

LEE: It was her brother.

MARCUS: Show me that a gain, that was --- I had never ...

PAULINE: (Laughter) Don't know whether you ought to be telling it or not.

MARCUS: Don't know whether to tell it or not.

LEE: ... on record or not.

MARCUS: You don't have to name anybody.

LEE: It was a boy that I went to school with, went insane, and they moved this two story building here with a stockade around it where they took care of him.

MARCUS: Oh.

LEE: And I was trying to think of the man's --- Sexton was one of the men that they imported to take care of him. And John Worlow was another man that took care of him. And I don't just remember how many years that he was confined here before he died, but it was several of them.

MARCUS: He died here at this ---

LEE: I'm not sure whether he died here, or whether he died at Pendleton.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: I'm not sure.

MARCUS: But that was the house ---

LEE: This was here ---

MARCUS: --- that was moved here for that purpose.

LEE: Yes.

MARCUS: Huh. Well, that's really interesting. This is Mrs. Richardson's brother we're talking about?

LEE: Yes. Uh huh, yeah.

MARCUS: Well, I sure never ---

LEE: Boy, he was a strapping big fellow, a fine looking man. I don't know ---

PAULINE: We have just time to take pictures. There's a ... wouldn't that make a close-up?

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: I've run them too much. (Laughter) I don't want to see another one.

PAULINE: (Laughter) ...

LEE: For along time there was a board gate set there in front of this little building right here, and it had the Jones Mercantile sign painted on the --- across this board gate in yellow paint. And that's --- looks like pretty good ---

MARCUS: Well, how's ...

PAULINE: Well, how far now is this from Drewsey? This is the old Stallard stage station here.

LEE: Well, I judge probably around four, between four and five miles. Four miles anyway, I would guess.

PAULINE: Well Velfa was telling me that she, that they fed a lot of people almost every day.

LEE: Yeah, yeah, it was ---

PAULINE: --- and she ---

LEE: --- quite a stop.

PAULINE: --- there was quite ---

LEE: Notorious stopping place, it was. This road isn't on the road, the road drops right along down about where the fence is. Went right in front of the trees there and crossed the wash, and then went back around.

PAULINE: I'm going to have another candy bar. How about you?

MARCUS: Yeah.

LEE: Well, you'll be getting fat. You'll be getting fat, Pauline.

PAULINE: Well, when I can't get through the door --- what kind do you want Marcus?

MARCUS: I don't care, whatever you got out.

LEE: Wouldn't she look like something if she was --- (Laughter)

PAULINE: Well the day is coming, I don't have any ---

MARCUS: No self-control.

PAULINE: No self-control.

LEE: She'd be fat just like her dad, wouldn't she?

PAULINE: Yeah, just like my dad. My grandmother, you know, was a terrible fat woman, my Grandma Ausmus.

MARCUS: Was she fat, or were you just kidding? ...

PAULINE: ...

LEE: My --- my wife's folks live right here at one time. I don't --- I'm not right sure where the house stood. But I think it was right along in here, on this side of that juniper tree there somewhere. Right out on this little flat here, anyways, at one time.

MARCUS: Who owns this valley?

LEE: Oh, Ed Stallard's boy, Owen Stallard. Agnes, do you know them? Do you know Agnes Stallard?

PAULINE: I went to school then.

LEE: I did too, I did too.

MARCUS: Pauline would know her.

PAULINE: Didn't everybody? Is there anybody that ---

LEE: I went to school to her here at Drewsey.

PAULINE: Yeah, I had her for the sixth grade.

LEE: Sixth grade. I think I missed it.

MARCUS: ... oh yeah.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: Oh yeah. Yeah, she comes up here every once in awhile. I think that, I probably was about the second grade somewhere when I went to her. That was before she was married. I went to her the winter she was married.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: Jim Sitz has this leased, has for several years.

MARCUS: Oh.

LEE: This is Drex's, this is my brother's place here. This is his retirement. He's took all the willows off of the place. He's got alfalfa seeded over on the other side. He's just really ---

MARCUS: What place would this have been, Lee?

LEE: This was part of the Stallard place that was foreclosed on by the bank. And the deficit was caused by Chet Stallard in the hey-days of his --- in the heyday of his cow buying. And when his dad --- dead, then the price dropped out, I think. He lost it.

PAULINE: We're getting into the timber now, in the pine.

LEE: See that eagle's nest?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: That's a gold eagle, hatches there every year.

MARCUS: Is he in the tree there, Lee?

LEE: Back here; back here this big nest back here.

MARCUS: Oh yeah, I see it now.

LEE: Yeah, there is a gold eagle hatches there every year.

MARCUS: ... get up there now.

LEE: People come and --- you can get up on that hill right behind them ---

PAULINE: Well, there he is ... you know. ...

MARCUS: Left there.

PAULINE: You know ...

MARCUS: ... bird something. It isn't a golden eagle, or yes it is too.

PAULINE: Yes, I think it is.

LEE: Yeah, they're golden eagles, they're golden eagles. I guess they're golden eagles. We see, see some of the bald eagles around here once in a while. And I guess when they're young; it's pretty hard to tell them.

MARCUS: No, no it really isn't.

LEE: Isn't it?

MARCUS: --- when they're big enough to fly.

LEE: Yeah. They --- the bald eagle is a slimmer built bird than the gold eagle, isn't he?

MARCUS: Well of course he's white down here, and they got white tails.

LEE: Well, they don't get that until after they're two years old though, Marcus.

MARCUS: Yeah, well they're, I think you can tell the golden eagle from the top of his head here.

LEE: Yeah, he's got that kind of a light colored ---

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: But I see these birds a flying, and once in awhile you'll see a dark, a dark bird with a slimmer built than the gold eagle. This is the Delaney field up here. That's Fred Baker's outfit over there.

MARCUS: Oh?

LEE: He, ah ---

MARCUS: We're getting pretty close to Edmundson's.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Do they have this place there?

LEE: No, no it still belongs to my brother. You see over where those white feed racks are?

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: He runs up against the road up there. And then this, after you get thorough this fence right here, that's Edmundson's right there. See that's ---

MARCUS: Oh yeah, uh huh.

LEE: --- next fence.

MARCUS: We were thinking --- over here one time ---

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: --- looking for Grant's pasture and they were haying over down here.

LEE: Yeah, that's the Jack, this is known as the Jack Field. This used to be the field that Miller and Lux buckaroo wagon camped in, in the spring ride.

MARCUS: Well this is the, this is Drex's corral ---

LEE: Yeah. Yes, uh huh.

MARCUS: --- and trailer house, his headquarters here. Uh huh.

LEE: And then in the fall of the year, on the fall ride I'd --- then we'd camp over there by the old Otis house. I've seen, I've seen many a rodeo there, just shortly after daylight.

MARCUS: I'll bet. And it wasn't on purpose either, was it?

LEE: No, it wasn't on purpose. It was deadly serious with the old boys on top. I'll tell you ---

PAULINE: Oh ---

LEE: What's the matter?

PAULINE: I got a, a drippy nose.

LEE: You have, have you?

PAULINE: Yes.

LEE: I have too, so ---

PAULINE: Get that back out of the way ---

LEE: Get a cold like this when I first ---

MARCUS: Was this the old Company Ranch here?

LEE: This is the Otis Valley Ranch here.

MARCUS: The PLS?

LEE: Yes.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: The PLS Company's Otis Valley Ranch. And then the place that Glen has up there, the Howell's place was a --- was a Miller and Lux ---

MARCUS: Oh, it was?

LEE: --- property too. Yes.

PAULINE: Well he owned just a good share of this area, didn't they?

LEE: They owned an awful lot of land in this country.

MARCUS: He sure put that stuff together everywhere, didn't he?

LEE: Yes, he did. Yeah.

MARCUS: It's just unbelievable.

LEE: Yeah. The last one I guess he put on was the Harper Ranch.

MARCUS: Was it?

LEE: That was the furthestest, the furtherest, lowest of any of them was the Harper Ranch. The Indian Creek Ranch that Bert Hawkins lives on was a Miller and Lux Ranch.

MARCUS: See now, Beulah Reservoir curls up the Agency. Am I right about that?

LEE: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: Heard Bill Thomson, he was talking about the Agency.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Old Bill Thomson used to talk about the Agency ...

LEE: Yeah. He buckarood there ---

MARCUS: Yeah, he buckarood ...

LEE: --- years ago.

MARCUS: ... wagon ...

LEE: See Thomson, Bill and Ross were raised over there on the Owyhee on the --- around Dry Creek, in there.

MARCUS: Oh?

LEE: They grew up there. This is pretty much on the old freight road here. It went around that point there, but the general direction there. You want to stop at the Altnow place, I'll show you another place here that was probably the most notorious, or famous freight stops along the road anywhere. I told Joe that if he had time this morning we'd stop and visit with him, if you folks wanted to.

PAULINE: Sure.

MARCUS: You bet.

LEE: This barn has quite a history to it. One of the Altnow boys was kicked in the head and killed here years ago. I don't know if that was a brother of Bill and Albert, I assume it was. And then Joe's boy got kicked in the same barn, Gary. That's where he was when he ---

MARCUS: They could keep tractors in there, wouldn't it?

LEE: Yeah. You remember when he ---

MARCUS: Yes, I remember when ---

LEE: It's quite a coincidence that two of them ---

MARCUS: Yeah, happened ---

LEE: --- both, the same barn.

MARCUS: Same barn here.

PAULINE: Well Gary wasn't killed though, was he?

LEE: No, no, no. But that kind of disfigured his face.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

LEE: He's come out of it real good too.

MARCUS: Right here?

LEE: Left. Howard Riley told me that he'd went down over the old stage road, he'd went down the Cottonwood Canyon ---

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: --- and so we can make it all right down through there.

PAULINE: That's encouraging to know that somebody else has been through ---

LEE: Huh?

PAULINE: I say it's encouraging to know that someone else has ---

LEE: Oh yeah, these people used to go down through ... when I was a kid. I've been down through there in a buggy.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: But the thing of going down through it in an automobile is something else.

PAULINE: That's something else. Yeah.

MARCUS: There's some ...

LEE: Peacock. See the peacock there?

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: This is Joe's house right here. I'll go in to see if ---

PAULINE: This stage stop that Lee's been telling us about.

LEE: This wasn't a stage stop. This was a freight team stop.

PAULINE: Freight team stop.

JOE ALTNOW: Well the freight team stop was really here at the Stallard place, wasn't it, Lee?

LEE: Yeah, but they ---

JOE: Did they?

LEE: Yeah, but they ...

JOE: But this was all before my time, so I can't ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

JOE: --- there isn't very much I can add.

LEE: You hadn't been told too much about it.

JOE: Probably heard it and just passed it, when I was a kid --- heard quite a bit about it. I mean I've heard Dad tell story after story. We were real sorry that where Mabel takes shorthand that in Dad's later years that she didn't go up there, you know, and take her shorthand and ---

MABEL ALTNOW: Well I sat there day after day ---

JOE: Just start from the time that he came to this country and made notes of it, she could have had quite a little diary, or little book on it, history on it.

LEE: Well this was one of the more famous stops along this freight line stage road.

JOE: But you see that was all before my time, and I just know that the old barn down here was, John Altnow's made it. And I don't even know what year he made it in.

MABEL: And this is only half the size it used to be.

JOE: It used to be a hundred feet long.

MABEL: We cut it down in half size when we came along.

JOE: It used to be a hundred long, and fifty ---

MARCUS: ... twice as big as it is now.

MABEL: It was once again as big.

MARCUS: Holy smokes.

JOE: It was a hundred feet long Marcus, and fifty feet wide.

MABEL: We cut it, we cut it down.

JOE: Both sides were fixed for horses. I don't know how many teams of horses they could put in there. Probably, oh twelve, fourteen teams I suppose they could put in there. And then the middle was completely for hay. And the hay mound went from the ground clear to the gables.

LEE: The full length of it.

JOE: The full length of it. They could put a stack of hay in there a hundred feet long, and about twenty-five feet wide. I don't know, I suppose about fifteen or sixteen feet high.

MABEL: Can I get you a cup of coffee?

LEE: It's up to these folks here.

MABEL: Marcus, would you like a cup of coffee?

MARCUS: I'll drink coffee anytime. Pauline ---

MABEL: How about you, Pauline?

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: She's drooling, I can tell.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah I would. Yeah, I never really say no to coffee.

LEE: What little I can remember about ---

MABEL: Well where does that leave you, Mr. Williams?

LEE: Yes.

JOE: You know they ---

LEE: You know better.

JOE: Of course too, they, Mildred's probably got all the pictures --- she's got pictures of

the old freight line, 'cause Jess and Guy both drove ---

LEE: Freight teams.

JOE: --- freight teams, and she's got pictures of them a riding on those.

PAULINE: Now Mildred who?

JOE: Jones.

PAULINE: Mildred Jones.

JOE: Ontario. And she's got ---

LEE: Joe's sister.

JOE: Yes. She's got pictures of, I don't know, I think she's even got some pictures of old Charlie Cramer, some of his freight teams.

LEE: Oh, no doubt she has.

JOE: Yeah. See they pulled two and three wagon outfits, you know.

LEE: Yeah, Cramer had a three-wagon outfit.

JOE: Yeah, that's right.

LEE: --- ten horses, three wagons.

JOE: But it's all, just all before my time. I just ---

LEE: Because I've seen those in action.

JOE: And then ---

LEE: And there was ---

JOE: --- then the Claypool's that, Joe Claypool lived on Dry Creek, the way Mildred told it yesterday. And Ruth lived on Cottonwood. But the way I remember, Grandpa and Grandma's house was right square on the main road.

LEE: On Cottonwood there, just as you go out of the canyon there. Yeah, it was, 'cause I remember we stayed there.

JOE: Oh, I think so. I think lots of people stayed there.

LEE: I just wondered ---

JOE: But gee, you know, I mean at the time I was there, gosh I was 5, and 6, and 7, and 8 years old, you know. I mean, and I haven't been back since, 'cause they moved Grandma and Grandpa up here. And then she, then they went to Crane and took care of us kids when we went through high school, 'cause there wasn't any dormitory there. And we lived at the grandparents when we went to school there.

I've heard Dad tell some good old stories about things at the barn. But they always... about somebody getting kicked by the horses or --- the things they used to do, racing buggies, and things like that.

LEE: The boy that was kicked and killed here, was that a brother to your dad, and Bill? Do you remember? I don't remember.

JOE: One of the Arnold boys was kicked here.

LEE: No, it wasn't one of the ...

JOE: Must have been adopted, Mom's adopted boy.

LEE: But anyway, it happened here in the barn.

JOE: I know I heard --- I know they used to go down there. Of course Dad --- well take your coat off, Marcus.

MARCUS: Just going to unzip it a little here.

JOE: But I know my dad was a great rider, and I've heard him tell about him and Buck Arnold.

MABEL: Cream, Pream, or sugar?

PAULINE: Oh, a little of each.

JOE: They would ---

MABEL: You want each?

PAULINE: Yes.

JOE: They'd break horses ...

MABEL: You like the works, huh?

JOE: ... now that ... ever broke he said, they'd just ride them double, they wouldn't, they wouldn't just ride them. As son as they got them started, they rode them a time or two, why they'd both get on him and ride him --- this Buck Arnold.

MARCUS: (Laughter)

LEE: I've heard that ---

JOE: You probably, you probably remember Buck Arnold, I can't remember him.

LEE: Yes, I remember Buck Arnold. You see there was Buck and Hoyt and ---

MABEL: I'll be back in a minute with a ---

JOE: Let's see Hoyt --- which one was the ---

LEE: The corn doctor?

JOE: Yeah.

MABEL: Hoyt.

LEE: Charlie.

JOE: Charlie.

MABEL: The chiropodist?

JOE: Well, which one was he?

MABEL: Hoyt.

JOE: Hoyt?

MABEL: No, no, Buck.

LEE: Buck.

MABEL: Buck.

LEE: That was Charlie, Charlie.

MABEL: Well I don't know what, all I know him by was Buck.

MARCUS: Well where did he doctor corns at, in Drewsey or ---

JOE: In Nevada.

MABEL: In Nevada.

MARCUS: Oh.

JOE: Elko, I believe.

MABEL: He was just a buckaroo when he was here.

LEE: Yeah, he was quite a buckaroo.

...

JOE: You know, Marcus, Marcus ... we had two machine sheds down there, and he'd --- I got a kick out of this. He said to Dad, he said, he called him Dutch, you know, all the time. Everybody called Dad Dutch. He says, "Dutch, you remember the day we shingled that shed on this side," he says, "we was so god damn drunk we couldn't hardly hit a nail, but we shingled her." (Laughter)

MABEL: Well they've been to visit us two or three times. I mean since Joe and I've been back here. Now one of them is dead. I don't know ---

JOE: You've got goodies to go with this if you'd take them into the table.

MABEL: Yes. ... I could fix you ...

MARCUS: ... coffee's fine. No thank you, Mabel. We ...

LEE: Charlie is the one that's dead, I'm not sure about Hoyt, he might be too.

JOE: Yeah, he is.

LEE: He is, yeah. And I guess Hoyt was the youngest of the family. Well go by the old Arnold place over there ...

PAULINE: I think it was Harry Clark that was telling me about Buck Arnold being such a good rider.

JOE: Oh, he was a dandy rider. Dad said that he'd get on a bucking horse and the horse

would be bucking, you know, and he'd just jump up behind the saddle on his knees, you know, and just double that horse, and just roll that horse, and when that horse would lite, he'd be standing right straddle of him. And when that horse got up he'd be sitting right on him, and take off again. He could take the buck out of a wild horse quicker than any man he ever saw.

LEE: That was one of Bob Wards tricks too, throw a horse, just stand straight up.

JOE: You know I, of course I've seen Dad, you know, as a kid, Pete --- You remember Pete Bowan, Lee? He was scared of a horse, you know. Pete was here breaking a horse one time, and Dad come in --- old gumboots on, and Pete was trying to get on that horse. Dad said, "Let me show you how to ride that horse, Pete." And of course Dad was a lot older than mother, and of course he was getting to be a fairly old man. And I was just a little old kid, probably about 10 years old. He got on that horse, you know, and out he ran, and he just bucked with him, and he just whipped him over the head with his hat, you know. And he rode him down, and rode him in the blacksmith's shop, and he got down here in the lake with him, and he brought him back up here. And this old garage, he rode him in that old garage, you know, and then he brought him back to Pete, and he said, "Now Pete," he said, "maybe you can ride him."

MARCUS: With a pair of rubber boots on?

JOE: Oh yeah. He just had an old pair of gumboots on, come in from irrigating.

LEE: I heard Charlie Cramer tell about something ... this barn here, when the freight outfits was in here.

JOE: You know they used to race them, with buggies too; just like kids racecars now.

MABEL: This is one of the things about dish washing ... you've got a dishwasher full of dishes, usually.

PAULINE: Well, join the club.

MABEL: So you're never quite sure just what ---

PAULINE: I ---

JOE: I've heard Mother tell about to get to Drewsey, Dad getting to drinking a little bit, and then they'd start home, you know, and get --- somebody else would have a fancy buggy, you know, and they'll have a trotting race, you know.

LEE: Yeah. You know --- No, this is just fine, Mabel.

MARCUS: I'm just fine, thank you, Mabel.

LEE: Well there used to be some pretty fancy ...

MABEL: You don't like it ---

PAULINE: Are you sure ---

MARCUS: Well, if you keep insisting, I'll take a little sugar here.

LEE: Bill Robinson ---

MABEL: My grandson uses cereal with his sugar.

LEE: Bill Robinson used to have a pretty fancy ...

MARCUS: You bet, they had fancy outfits.

LEE: --- teams out there with ---

MARCUS: You bet.

...

JOE: But I can't even remember a freight team, you know.

LEE: ... when I begin to get big enough to --- oh, 8, 10 years ... the railroad come into Juntura then. ...

MARCUS: See Dusty ...

LEE: ... began to move the, that began to move the freight teams out of the picture then, it was time to ...

MABEL: You got some of those old pictures?

JOE: I don't think so; Mildred's got them all. I'd like to see ... that box is.

PAULINE: Well it sounds like maybe Allen ... in Ontario look her up.

JOE: She'd be the person to look up. She could give you more on it, and then Ilda May Hayes could give you a lot on it too. Of course she couldn't give you much on it here. But

LEE: Well, this is what she was interested in, this ...

MARCUS: She can give me a little on the Otis Valley schoolhouse.

LEE: Yes.

MABEL: ...

PAULINE: Oh, yeah.

JOE: That's my dad's ---

PAULINE: Well, Donald and Altnow.

JOE: Yeah, and this is my dad.

MABEL: I think this is the picture ...

JOE: This man with a cigarette in his mouth, this is him, that's my dad.

MABEL: Remember when ... that's this year. Not quite sure if it was this particular one, but this is ...

LEE: ... horses. Canyon City was the closest ...

MABEL: Pauline, have you ever seen one of these?

PAULINE: Uh, yeah, yeah. They have this in the library. This is a good book, hang on to it, don't let it out of your sight.

MABEL: Don't worry, I'm not letting it out of my sight.

JOE: We sent that to Portland and had it restored to its original shape. It cost us about \$60.00.

MABEL: I sent it to J. K. Gills.

PAULINE: Yeah. I was going to say it's in better shape than most of them I've seen.
Yeah.

MABEL: Well it isn't ---

JOE: It isn't --- they wanted to put new pages in it.

MABEL: Yeah, I didn't let them do that.

JOE: We just had it restored to its original ---

PAULINE: Yeah. Well, I'd give my eyeteeth to get a hold of a copy, but I don't suppose there's any chance ever ---

JOE: No, I don't think so.

MABEL: I don't believe so.

JOE: Not very many of them.

MABEL: There aren't very many of them.

JOE: Mildred was ...

MABEL: You can look at it any time you wish. I don't let it go out of the house.

PAULINE: Well, they have it in the library, so ---

MABEL: In Burns?

PAULINE: Yeah.

MABEL: Well now this actually, this tells as much as any ...

JOE: You know that's still ... he tried to get him to cut his finger off. He'd just come from Michigan and went down ... to meet this brother and Dad was 9 years old, and they were just a day's camp from here when they picked up the tracks ... rattlesnake bit him. So he told his brother to cut it off. His brother didn't have nerve enough to. Dad wouldn't cut it off. And I don't know why he didn't cut it off himself, but that old fellow built the fire and laid down and stuck that finger in those coals and burnt that finger off. And of course that was the worst thing he could have done. Before the night was over why he was vomiting

and really bad.

And so they had one horse they could ride, and Dad and this fella got on this horse, and they started out for the ranch. And they thought they were lost, and Dad finally saw these chalk hills up here. And then he knew that he had found the ranch. And so then they got a --- they had to take a hack, go clear back and get him, bring him here, from here to Canyon City. And Dad said he just turned the color of a rattlesnake, just turned all spotted and he went to bleeding in the lungs. But the old fellar lived. Just imagine, laying down and sticking your finger in the coals and burning it off.

MARCUS: Burned it off.

JOE: Well it'd been twice as easy to cut it off.

MARCUS: Yeah.

...

PAULINE: That was a shock to his system.

MARCUS: ... upon this road, my mother has told me about it. He got bit by a rattlesnake, and he had a hatchet, and he just laid it on the wagon tongue and whacked it off.

JOE: Well, I don't know why he didn't do that, instead of burn it off, you know. He just run the poison right through him.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: I guess he thought that was the easiest way to do it.

LEE: Old Bill Widell lost his thumb in a roping accident, and it was just a hanging there with a --- with just a leader, you know. And he just laid her up on top of the fence post and cut the leader off.

MABEL: ...

LEE: ... fellow seen him do that.

MABEL: Of course I suppose maybe if he didn't know what else to do, you didn't know

what else to do.

JOE: He laid there alone till they got back there ...

MABEL: Well, you see, the original picture of the old house, well let's see ... about here ...

JOE: They got the original picture, Mabel.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MABEL: Yeah, this is the original picture. But the reason they built the porches around them then, you know, they built porches around here, clear around, clear around to the other side, was because they had a rabies scare that year. And all the coyotes and dogs were mad. And there wasn't any place for these kids to play.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MABEL: So they put this ---

JOE: Marcus ... better picture of that one than the one he took in there.

PAULINE: I don't think so, I think probably that ---

MABEL: I think that shows the house better in there.

PAULINE: I think so. I think it ---

MABEL: These two original buildings are right here, right now. And this one is over at the lake. But these, all three of these are still here.

JOE: All three of those.

MARCUS: I looked at that when I first came in. Had my eye on it, but I think we got it in these other pictures.

JOE: Yeah, you got it in the others. ... real cheap, we should buy horses. We had a stud horse picked out up there. He was \$2,800.00. We couldn't get the money to --- Bob said, he wrote down, he said we need to buy some of these horses. He wrote to Bill Hanley. Bill Hanley said it was Corbett put up the money, and I don't know what year this was, along about '98, '97, along in there. 18 percent, just think, 18 percent for the money.

LEE: ... when I was a kid, you didn't ask the interest when you went to borrow some, it was 10 percent. It was --- that was the standard rate of interest.

MABEL: Oh, there's another petition in there too. You fellas probably remember this. Thompson recall, what was he, Judge?

JOE: Judge.

MARCUS: Judge Thompson.

MABEL: Judge, yes. ... Paul Bradshaw, well anyway, here was these petitions in here; there was quite a bunch. Who took those? ...

JOE: Well I don't know, we wanted to take one up there, and we wanted to do it, and then we didn't know how Newt would take it. We was going to take one of those old petitions to him, to recall Judge Newton Hotchkiss. Take it up there, you know, and put it on his door. Yes, but we didn't, we backed out. We was going to type it in, but we didn't. We didn't know how Newt would take it. (Laughter)

MARCUS: It would make him jerk and belch a little bit. (Laughter)

... (Pause)

LEE: Riding right over the wheel tracks of a lot of wagons and horses.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: I guess many an old horse died in the harness in those days, didn't they?

LEE: Yeah, yeah they did. Horses didn't last long in those days.

MARCUS: No, no.

LEE: They didn't ---

MARCUS: They were really expendable.

PAULINE: Well, well this sawmill now, this Mill Creek took its name from, is this the one that Harry Clark and those were involved in? Or was it, it was over on the other side of Drewsey, wasn't it?

LEE: No, it was on the Middle Fork.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: And on Alder Creek up in the mountains north of here. I remember when the sawdust pile was still out here, where the mill site was. But there was no mill there in my time. There was quite a belt of trees around the site.

PAULINE: This isn't where the, this isn't where the Robie Sawmill was then either?

LEE: The what?

PAULINE: The Robie Sawmill.

LEE: I --- I haven't the least idea.

MARCUS: It was right above Harney.

LEE: I ---

PAULINE: It was above Harney?

MARCUS: Yeah.

PAULINE: Oh.

LEE: I just don't have any idea.

PAULINE: Well I think I had in my head that it was out here, out of Drewsey.

MARCUS: No --- he ... lumber from the Harney, Fort Harney there, and Pete French ---

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: --- lumber, used to come up, and was trucked from there. Used to truck it down with ox teams off down to the south end of those buildings.

LEE: Some of these sawmills is around in the country, straight ahead. Some of these sawmills is around in the country. They hauled the logs out of the mountains down to them.

MARCUS: Uh huh. Yeah, I imagine that's right.

LEE: Sam Jenkins did that in his mill up there.

MARCUS: Like ... is doing now.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Well ... I didn't know it, probably everybody else does, quite a mill down there where that --- the old Wolverine Mill used to be. I was in there the other day; it's a stud mill. And say, boy, boy they're --- really sawing lumber down there.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah, they're really; they're really going to town down there.

MARCUS: Yeah. And I was down there trying to buy some stuff; I couldn't find anybody to buy it from. Then a fellow come in there from San Jose, California, a truck and trailer out there, loaded.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Studding. You and I both run around there together trying to find somebody, and I gave up and left. He was still looking.

LEE: Yeah, that stud mill there is just using salvage lumber logs.

MARCUS: Yes. Yeah, mostly pine.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: That I saw there. You bet, they had piles of it. They had a lot of equipment there. The main mill is in Prineville.

LEE: That's all, that's all they saw, is just 2 x 4 studding.

MARCUS: That's right. But I tell you; things were really humming there. The logs just a plopping in those ---

LEE: Yeah. Now at one time there was a bridge across this --- this is Mill Creek here now. This is the main Mill Creek. At one time there was a bridge right across there. Somewhere right in here, I don't remember just where it was. But all the times that I ever came out here, they just crossed at ... or the bridge site right there.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: Uh huh. All the times that I ever came out here, why they just used the --- I don't know when they put the bridge in there.

MARCUS: My mother tells about one of the trips ---

LEE: Pine trees are off up in there.

MARCUS: Probably some place about like this. Well they were camping out, is where ... and Fred Osborne, a younger brother of Mother's, run on to some guy and traded for a six shooter. And he was just a big kid. Mama wasn't much older, and she was getting supper on this campfire. Camped on a creek just like that, and by golly she said, "Now Fred, you put that old gun down, now you're going to shoot somebody." Go off out here by yourself --- oh, it's plum safe, and he snapped it a time or two. Pretty soon that thing went off and hit Mama right in the forehead.

LEE: Well I'll be damned.

PAULINE: Oh!

MARCUS: It just laid her cold right on this creek bed.

PAULINE: He thought he'd shot her sure.

MARCUS: Oh yeah, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: It was a dud. It just knocked her down. She had a scar when she died.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: A big splotch right over the middle of her forehead.

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sakes.

LEE: Was it the muzzle blast that burned her?

MARCUS: No, the bullet.

LEE: The bullet hit.

MARCUS: No, the bullet hit.

LEE: Well, I'll be damned.

MARCUS: He was off a little ways. And the thing --- it was a dud shell and he'd snapped it two or three times and it didn't go, you see, and he was off and kind of looking at it and pretty soon off it went. You've seen that happen.

LEE: Yes, I've had it happen.

MARCUS: Yeah, so have I. I'm scared to death myself ... shell and snap ...

LEE: Boy I snap it once, I get rid of it.

MARCUS: I get rid of it, and then I run away from it until I can pick a live one. Yeah. Mama used to speak of --- just down the Vale Valley there, there used to be a big white house, and it set on the left hand side of the road, out this side of Vale three or four miles. She used to tell me --- when we go by there, and she said, "I used to stay there in that house when we came up through here, coming into the country here."

PAULINE: I wonder if that's the same one ---

MARCUS: It's a big two-story house. Its been moved later ... since, it's back over on the south side of the road now, and re-done, and refinished and all.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: There was two brothers homesteaded this, Smith Wilson and Arch Wilson. And they were what you would call illiterate people, I guess. One of them was a asking somebody if they could do any-thing with a man, for keeping the man all night when the sheriff was after him. He couldn't talk very plain.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: It was Arch.

MARCUS: Lee, you may remember something about this, Clarence Young was telling me not long ago, he was talking about --- you remember Leonard Locher?

LEE: Oh, yeah.

MARCUS: He was, used to be a deputy.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: They had some fellow here in Drewsey, it was in the wintertime, snowed in pretty well ... killing beef. And Clarence was gone, so Leonard Locher proceeded to come down and investigate. And he got on the train and he rode to Juntura, and was met there by some ... after this fellow. And among the bunch was Albert Altnow.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Drunker than \$700.00.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: And old Locher, I guess he was, he was a strict teetotaler.

LEE: Just like Clarence Young.

MARCUS: Oh. He proceeded then to find out where old Albert got his whiskey. And he arrested old Albert, and the guy that he come down there for killing the beef, never even bothered to even look for him.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Do you remember anything about this?

LEE: I remember that. Yes, I do.

MARCUS: Yeah, he told me about that.

LEE: Yeah, that was in the prohibition time.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: That was bad.

PAULINE: Well prohibition time really didn't slow people down in Drewsey too much, did it?

LEE: No, it didn't anywhere.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: It didn't anywhere, Pauline.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Prohibition just ---

MARCUS: Just made a little rottener whiskey is all.

LEE: Well now some of those old boys, Marcus, made better whiskey than you can buy, even out of the bottles today.

MARCUS: By god some of them --- we got ...

LEE: Well we had some ---

MARCUS: --- bottles.

LEE: We had some of them too that it took them a little while to get the cork on some ---

MARCUS: Bob McManus I was telling you about had the ... pump down there in ...

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: He made the rottenest ... dirty old ...

LEE: George Kelly that lived in Mill Gulch out here made whiskey out of fruit and sugar. That was the rottenest tasting whiskey that I ever sampled over in this country. And John Provo over there at Canyon City was --- I believe even worse than he was. But whiskey experts tell me that the rottenest whiskey when it's first made, will age out to the best whiskey, when it gets aged.

MARCUS: Oh?

LEE: Now this is Tub Springs. This was the watering place for freight teams and buggy horses. The Smith Wilson's house stood right here in one of these flats here somewhere.

PAULINE: ... all the way out here.

LEE: And there was a tub, they called it a tub, but it was a half a barrel set in that spring there. And that's where it got its name. But climbing the Agency Mountain up this way, or

coming from Drewsey this other way, this was about the first water that was available where the ---

MARCUS: Going to get a ... in there ---

PAULINE: Well ---

MARCUS: --- Pauline?

PAULINE: Don't say that.

LEE: What was going on, I missed that?

MARCUS: Well, they were having a little bite in there.

LEE: Oh, they was?

MARCUS: ... I can see him through the window.

PAULINE: Oh I ---

LEE: Oh, it must be, just be eating breakfast; it's only 9:30.

MARCUS: Oh, I thought maybe Pauline would ...

LEE: 10:30 I guess it is.

PAULINE: I missed that; I was looking for that tub.

MARCUS: You were looking for a still.

TAPE 2 - SIDE C

LEE: ... the county took this road over to maintain it so the fishermen could get across here, rather than go out around, found a little better place. ... see the old road went straight through.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: They didn't have much time to wind around unless they had to. See that's wore down into the ground quite a ways.

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sakes, it sure is. I ---

LEE: But you take those long heavy outfits --- I wouldn't have any idea how much weight they carried on those freight wagons. But they always told me that they figured a ton to the horse.

MARCUS: Yeah, I remember you fellows telling that over there at the ---

LEE: And I assume that that included wagon and everything. So I don't have any idea how much weight they carried. Although Cramer told me how much weight of wool that he hauled into Vale, the biggest load of wool they ever brought into Vale. I haven't the least idea of how much they was. Seems to me like it was around 16,000, 17,000 pounds of wool. Ten horses, and three wagons --- that sound about right?

MARCUS: Yeah, I guess it does.

PAULINE: Now we have just come from Otis Valley, going towards the Agency.

LEE: Yes.

PAULINE: I want to get this straight in my head, 'cause it doesn't make a lot of sense.

LEE: We're heading generally east. Seems like we're moving a little northeast, which we are.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: 'Cause we'll swing back when we get over on the other side. I think this would be the summit right here. See the modern automobiles coming.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: ... here comes the freight wagon.

LEE: This sales ---

PAULINE: This is what they call Agency Mountain?

LEE: Yes.

PAULINE: How is he going to get through that creek bottom back there?

MARCUS: He's going to drag his tail feathers, isn't he?

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: He's going to wait for me to ---

LEE: Well, you never know about these ---

MARCUS: Never know.

LEE: --- never know about these fellows out here. I don't --- He's going the other way, isn't he?

MARCUS: Uh huh. Now Pauline ---

PAULINE: Yeah, now this is a good ---

MARCUS: This is something else.

LEE: Now this is dropping you down into --- give you an idea.

PAULINE: Is this the freight --- was that the trail up there, or is that a ditch?

LEE: No, no, this --- that's --- don't know if there's a road, an old road went down through there or not, Pauline. That could be the old road, I'm not sure. This is a bunch here that I --- well we'll just have to watch and see which way it went.

PAULINE: Now why don't we take a picture from right here, Marcus?

MARCUS: All right.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Where is the reservoir, Lee? Is it back through this or on around the track up here?

PAULINE: Cache Creek Mountain.

LEE: Now this is, it's high and steep. I led a bunch of boys right up into one of these mountains one night, and some of them thought they was pretty tough. Before we got to the top there, sure weeded out the ---

MARCUS: Showed them up pretty quick.

PAULINE: Murray Ranch?

LEE: Yeah, Adam and Bill, and Janet Murray, sheep men.

PAULINE: Okay, yeah. Well, you know Irene Davis?

MARCUS: Irene Davis?

PAULINE: Yeah, Oscar's wife.

LEE: Yes, I do.

MARCUS: Just to see her. She was a Chambers, wasn't she?

PAULINE: Well her --- yeah, she was a Chambers. Her grandmother, or great great-grandmother, or great, great, ever so great grandmother is supposed to be buried over, up over there.

LEE: Is buried over in here, she's over in here, yes.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Yeah, that's ---

MARCUS: Yeah, was she on the pioneer ---

PAULINE: Yeah, she was on that Meek ---

LEE: She was --- on the Meek outfit there.

MARCUS: ... she's laid there for quite a while, hasn't she?

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Now you can imagine what an old horse had to contend with coming up here. This is --- you're on the old road right here.

PAULINE: Yeah, on the old road.

MARCUS: You bet, especially raining.

LEE: If it was raining, they didn't make it.

MARCUS: I'll bet.

PAULINE: Oh, looky here.

LEE: Yeah, slick. I think the biggest freight team that I remember coming through here

was --- it was a Miller and Lux team, Pacific Livestock team. Their wagons were painted orange color, and they used mules in most of them that I ever saw. About fourteen mules to a --- to the team. The horses that they used, they usually ten, ten horses to the three wagons. But for some reason the mules, took more of them, or they put on more. And that was quite a sight to see those orange colored wagons ---

PAULINE: I bet they showed up for quite a while.

LEE: --- with fourteen mules. Yep.

MARCUS: They ought to have white mules to go with them, hadn't they? It's pretty steep; you could roll right off of there.

LEE: Yeah, it's steep.

MARCUS: You can see somebody ---

LEE: Coming off of there with heavy loaded with wool would be quite an experience, wouldn't it?

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: You bet, it sure would.

LEE: They hauled a world of wool out of that Conley Basin country back of Drewsey there, back of Sitz's reservoir, on Clear Creek.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Oh.

LEE: They used to shear tens of thousands of head of sheep out there during those days. This is the way the wool came out.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: There's places out there where the old wagon ruts cut into the solid rock pretty good too.

MARCUS: You know those were kinda romantic days, in the sheep days, Lee.

LEE: Yes.

MARCUS: You know shearing corrals and shearing crews and that, you know.

LEE: Yep.

MARCUS: I was with a shearing crew a couple years; I wouldn't have missed the experience for anything. I sacked wool.

LEE: Those old wool stompers sure had their work cut out, didn't they, for them?

MARCUS: Well I did anyway.

LEE: Good stout legs when they got done, didn't they?

MARCUS: You bet.

LEE: Some of those boys get a little too ambitious, they'd bust one of those wooolsacks, you know.

MARCUS: If the wool was a little damp, it would take the side right out on them, you know.

LEE: Boy they sure was careful not to do that more than once, too. They'd have to re-sack that wool that ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: That was --- This is the area that I --- when you hear people speak of between the Agencies's, this is the area.

PAULINE: Yeah. Between, well the Agency Mountain has actually got two ---

LEE: This whole, this whole thing. It has two summits, yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah. Two summits, yeah.

LEE: Yeah, that is on the road itself.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah. I remember you telling me about that before, but ---

MARCUS: I don't know if we'll get through that hill over there, at the top of this summit. We'll probably get one ---

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: --- down the other way there too.

LEE: Get one --- Agency Mountain. You know, you think about those people that came --

-

PAULINE: Bluebird.

LEE: Yeah, these are northern bluebirds, I think, that are in here now. They seem like they're pretty dark colors anyways.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: And the northern robins have been, oh its been quite a little while since they went through.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Yeah, they've moved through, oh, probably a month ago, just thousands of them.

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sake.

LEE: Just thousands of them.

PAULINE: You started to say something about people that moved through here, and I interrupted you.

LEE: They, people ride along over this in a automobile, and the men that carried the U.S. mail through this country, a lot of times this snow across these Agency Mountain here would be two and three feet deep.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: It drifted, and the mud probably in the spring of the year was just as deep as the snow was. And I imagine they --- I won't say bull headedness, but that's what it had to amount to for people to start in from Burns and take pride in keeping the mail on schedule.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Clear through to Ontario and back again.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: By gosh nowadays all they --- they just wait for an excuse so they don't have to drive down the highway.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Be on a wheel on a freight wagon, heavy loaded.

MARCUS: You bet.

PAULINE: Oh, gee whiz.

LEE: Now, look right down onto the Beulah Reservoir.

MARCUS: Now, we better get a shot right here.

PAULINE: Yeah, I think we better.

MARCUS: Because we're going to lose out from here on, to the top.

...

LEE: And Bill Altnow's ranch is back across the river behind this mountain here, I think. We can get --- look at it when we get over across the reservoir on the other side. Right down in this flat here where you see this Warm Spring Creek coming into the reservoir was where the Thompson bothers lived. You've heard them tell about the hay ranch that they had, the amount of hay that they'd stack up for years, and years, and years.

MARCUS: Yeah. Yeah, I have. I think Bill Davies got involved in that one time. He come up here to buy some hay and he wanted \$16.00 for it, and oh, that's too much. And it snowed again about a foot that night, and Bill came back up the next day to get the hay. "And well I'll take it." "Yeah, but it's \$20.00 now this morning."

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Came up \$4.00 with the snowstorm.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: That's where they lived, huh?

LEE: That's where they lived. And when the, if we get, if we're lucky enough to get into Vale today I'll show you the house. Kate Jones, her name is Fields now, bought the house and moved it down this side of Vale.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: Right, it's right, just before you get to Bully Creek Store, there's a big two story white house sits there along side of a brick house. And that was the old Thompson house. But twice, that my memory serves me right, the Thompson boys saved the cattle in this country by having that hay piled up there, over the years. It would be hard to imagine, Marcus and Pauline, the amount of hay that was in on that Thompson ranch there. Fifteen or twenty years of hay crop piled up there on one ranch there. It was just hard to imagine how much hay there was there.

MARCUS: Huh. When you're out of hay up here, thirty years ago, forty years ago, you were out of hay, weren't you?

LEE: Yes, you were out of luck too. There was a bunch --- wasn't much of any way to haul ---

MARCUS: You didn't haul ---

LEE: --- feed in like you do now.

MARCUS: --- two or three hundred miles off. You were just out of luck.

LEE: If it was ---

MARCUS: Out of business.

PAULINE: Well this is why they always --- they fed their oldest stack, they didn't feed their new hay, they fed the oldest stack.

LEE: Yes, yes, fed the oldest stack. Well there is something, something peculiar about

livestock and hay. The boys that have to do with nutrition these days tell you how green to cut your hay, and how much protein it has in it, would give a cow or a horse free choice of two or three year old hay, compared to this years cutting, and guess which stack they'll go to.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: The two or three year old hay is the one they'll go to. Of course the boys tell you that the cows don't know the difference, but I always kind of thought they did. ... one of those long outfits, you can imagine how far out the lead team had to be there to bring that wagon in line. Of course this road is quite a bit wider now than it was in those days too.

PAULINE: It's just hard for me to imagine. I just can't, the idea of those wagons would be back here, and the horses clear down there.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Those horses had to know what they had to do in order to get that wagon around that turn.

LEE: And they did know.

PAULINE: And they did know.

LEE: They did know.

PAULINE: You had to know that they did.

MARCUS: You see somebody chucked right there, Lee, when he --- he left it in the road too.

LEE: Yeah, yeah that ah --- I forgot which one it was, whether it was old big Bill Davis, or --- come bring the chuck wagon back to the Agency in the fall of the year, and it had been a raining, and it was slick. And they got down here somewhere, and they had a mishap and they had a runaway down through here. He brought it out all right at the lower end,

but just imagine four mules and a wagon load with beds and grub. And the cook box on the back end a coming down over this damned thing.

MARCUS: Yes, I --- the old teams they used to hook up for those buckaroo cooks, now I'll tell you would take you for a ride.

LEE: Well that's ---

PAULINE: Well they didn't put the gently ones on did they?

MARCUS: No, they didn't. When I was a kid, oh 7 or 8 or 9 years old I used to --- remember Ermin Dillman he used to cook for the "P" buckaroos.

LEE: Who?

MARCUS: Ermin Dillman.

LEE: Oh, oh he used to cook?

MARCUS: You bet, he was a buckaroo cook, and a good one.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: ... take the whole buckaroo outfit to hook up those four mules.

LEE: Well it did. It did with any ---

MARCUS: You talk about going now, we really would.

LEE: Well now here's one turn Pauline, that would take quite a little --- those old leaders had to get out into the brush quite a ways. Yeah they, it took, usually took the whole outfit here to hook up when --- to hold them until the cook got the wagon ---

MARCUS: You bet.

LEE: --- and the way they went.

MARCUS: Yeah, then he was on his own then.

LEE: Yeah. I'll tell you when that old cook came and lit into the collar and went to going there, they had the old cavy outfit right there, and the wrangle, and they all left together, you know. That bunch of horses would just follow that damn cook wagon to hell.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Just --- that old bell mare, Agency outfit had an old pinto bell mare, an ornery old devil. She would just lay right to that cook wagon till they got to the next camp. You know it took quite a bit of imagination to figure out a road up over this here damn mountain here. This is getting a little steep down through here.

PAULINE: Yes, it is.

MARCUS: Trying to run off now.

LEE: A little steep. They're trying to cut across here, there you see, there's the old, old ruts. But even so, why that's a pretty sharp turn.

MARCUS: You had my tape of Lee and Ted Graves.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah, I've got half of that typed off. I haven't ever gotten the other typed. Oh, I'm going to be old and gray before I finish that.

MARCUS: The last --- last Thanksgiving, you know, when you and Ted and Arlie made the tape on the freight teams.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Pauline's got that; it's all taped up.

PAULINE: Well ---

MARCUS: Tells all about it.

LEE: All typed up?

PAULINE: Well, I've got half of it typed up. The front end, or the back end, I forget which. I got half of it anyway. I've got to flip the tape over and get the other side.

MARCUS: I get a big kick out of Ted --- why that son-of-a-bitch! (Laughter) The only time we stayed on a road was when we crossed it.

LEE: Well here's a sample right here now, you know, how long those freight teams are, they didn't have much to figure on there, did they?

PAULINE: Yeah. No, they wouldn't.

MARCUS: You wouldn't see your lead team anyway, would you?

LEE: No. And then these turns here are mild compared to this one that's ahead of us down there.

PAULINE: its kind of a steep drop off there. It's not exactly

LEE: Yeah, and it's rocky every step of the way to the bottom too. I guess that old boy sitting on that cook wagon was sitting pretty tight when he come down off of this. I don't know just whether this happened --- took place or whether it started to run, but it was down here someplace.

PAULINE: Okay, here we go.

LEE: Now that road there goes on over, that's the road that took us over to the Agency house.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: It was the Agency house on the west side of the river there. This is the road here.

MARCUS: We want to go back down this way?

LEE: We got to go this way.

PAULINE: Now this, was this --- they turned in here too, or ---

LEE: Yeah, yeah, this is ---

PAULINE: Well now would, any horse would go --- would the lead horses stay on the --- they would go for ---

LEE: They would have to be way out there. That lead team out there at the end of that many horses --- he had to make the big---

PAULINE: And by picking the road back down here, and the wagon would stay on the road.

LEE: Stay on the road. Kept the wagons on the road. The teams took to the brush.

PAULINE: I just can't understand how they taught the horses to know all that, I really don't. I know you've explained the whole thing to me. I understand it, but I still don't ---

LEE: Well the same way, same way you'd teach a horse to work cows ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: --- or what have you, because they would just ---

PAULINE: Then they know. They'll go get the cow whether you go tell them to or not. Jeepers, we may see that balloon hung up over here someplace.

LEE: He might do it. He was in Burns there, wasn't he?

PAULINE: I don't think he ever made it to Burns.

LEE: They was telling about it over the radio. They thought he left from Sunriver, wasn't it?

PAULINE: Yeah, he got to Wagontire. He went to Wagontire in a---

LEE: You see any traces of the old road, it didn't follow around the point of this hill like this road goes now, it went down.

MARCUS: There's a roan Durham bull, I'll betcha somebody's looking for.

LEE: Could be.

PAULINE: When did they put in the Beulah Reservoir?

LEE: I can't tell you. I believe it was along in the early '40's.

PAULINE: Well I haven't been over here for years. But I'm shocked to see it this low. That's ---

LEE: The Agency Ranch is back on that point that sticks out. I think that that ... where the house was. It was one of the few posts and one thing and another around over there.

PAULINE: I just can't believe this.

MARCUS: Now, I --- when I was here the thing was ---

PAULINE: Why, yeah ---

LEE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: It's what I say; you just can't realize it was that deep. I guess they just about got it pumped dry, haven't they?

LEE: Yeah, they have.

MARCUS: I've never seen the river lower in Ontario than what it was the other day when I was down there.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: It ...

PAULINE: Well, more hunters, I thought twice about putting this white cap on this morning. I thought, somebody thinks that some-body's deer tail sticking out.

LEE: You were a deer, huh? (Laughter) That iron bridge was right across, right across out this way as I remember this thing.

PAULINE: Well there was an iron bridge across here?

LEE: Yes, there was an iron bridge across this.

PAULINE: Across the river?

LEE: Yeah. You ought to be able to see the trace of that old road around there. Maybe the wave action has washed it out. There was a ---

MARCUS: See that's John Robinson's place right up there, isn't it?

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: We ate lunch there. Come down here to the bridge and went on around on the other side of Castle Rock, and up to the old, to Goodman's Tomb ---

LEE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: --- and then back.

LEE: Over there to the Hold Out.

MARCUS: Yeah, I guess that's what they called it, Hold Out. They're going to hold him out for a while.

LEE: Yeah. ... was over in that draw over there where there was a store and a blacksmith's shop was, or whether it was on this ... out here. But some people by the name of Schweitzer run the thing for quite a while. And I believe Gilkeys were the ones that was here longer than anybody, that run the store and had a little place where you could stop and stay all night. They had a blacksmith shop. And I was trying to think, one of George Lyles boys, an old blacksmith from Ontario, run the shop for a while. Let's see, Bill and Frank Lyles --- Frank Lyles was the one that run the blacksmith shop for a while. But there was another man, Johnny was his first name, and I can't call his last name, but blacksmithed here for years.

PAULINE: Why they had quite a little, quite a little settlement here then for ---

LEE: Yeah, they did, yeah. It was just a stopping place. You can see the road from Juntura, what's Juntura now. Those days Juntura wasn't there.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: There was no town. There was a store down there, but it supplied quite a large area.

PAULINE: Well I imagine they had a school here too then?

LEE: Yes, there was a school. I'll show you where the schoolhouse was. It was further up on Warm Spring Creek up there, where the schoolhouse was. They had got confused in here somewhere, and they moved, they went back this way instead of coming this way. Apparently their scouts hadn't worked the route out ahead of the caravan far enough that they --- but what they got mixed up. Because that was terribly rough country up in ---

PAULINE: They went through there, they went ---

LEE: They crossed over; they crossed the river and pulled right straight up over a big

steep mountain just like this one right here.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: And come down on the Cottonwood side.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: And then came down Cottonwood.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Well then, why Irene's grandmother is buried over ---

LEE: It's off over in here somewhere.

PAULINE: Off over there somewhere.

LEE: I never did know just where the grave was. But it's off over in there somewhere.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah. Uh huh.

LEE: I think they've got a marker and everything up there where it is now.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: But you can just look at this country and imagine people starting out through it.

PAULINE: Oh, it's hard to ---

LEE: With those big heavy outfits, you know, and the hardships they had to went through. And why they kept, well naturally that was the way they wanted to go would be north and west.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: And they kept trying to go that way apparently. Now whether they come on this side of Castle Rock, or whether they come on the other side, I don't know.

PAULINE: Yeah. But it ---

LEE: There's roads on both sides.

PAULINE: Either way it would have been rugged country.

LEE: Oh, it was an old military road that comes across this higher country and crosses up here at the mouth of Crane Creek.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: They called it the old military road, and came out through and hit in by Unity. Then the Creighton road turned off where Crane Creek hits the river here and it came right back and come out through by the Drewsey country.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: Hit on the Middle Fork of the Malheur over there, and some of the darned country they crossed to get over there, it's darned near impossible for the present day hunter to walk over, let alone take one of those big outfits over.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Why they didn't make things easier for themselves. As near as I can figure out, they just went straight, you know, as near as they could.

PAULINE: Yeah. Yeah, they wanted to go west, they went west, and ---

LEE: That's what they did. They didn't change around very much. Well it's ---

MARCUS: About to freeze to death?

LEE: One of the most impossible places they could have crossed this damn river, was where they crossed up there.

MARCUS: Well that's what old Meeks did, was all the impossible things.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: I guess he did, yeah.

MARCUS: He didn't know where he was going anymore than the man in the moon.

LEE: And he didn't have any scouts out. He didn't have any scouts apparently that knew where they were going.

MARCUS: No, nobody knew where they were going. Folks out around Wagontire --- had ten hundred head of animals. They've got that book out, "Cut-off, Meeks" --- "Terrible Trail" it's called.

PAULINE: I've read it, but it's been a long time ago. I ---

MARCUS: ... well just think ... places a wagon and little old potholes where we could get a drink and get along for a while. Bring in seven, eight hundred head of cattle and ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: --- wagons and all, what are you going to do?

PAULINE: What a trip.

LEE: No chance for them to water.

MARCUS: It's all gone.

LEE: No chance for them to water.

MARCUS: Nope.

LEE: ... I can't tell you what their first names are, but I know two of them that lived over there at Baker. And then you get over on the John Day country over here, and old Tom Shull, old nigger that lived out at Canyon City. And Earl Gillette he was deputy sheriff under Lee Howell. As a matter of fact he did moonshined whiskey and sold it while he was deputy sheriff. Just a lot of those people in there that actually ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: And this was written by a man by the name of Walter Scott. And then had homesteaded one time over there by Barton Lake.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Where the Jenkins --- Tommy Jenkins place was. And I haven't found anybody that remembered the man, and he didn't. I think he is dead ... about 1920 ...

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: By golly, you'll have to ask Myrtle Barnes about him.

LEE: I'll bet she'd know it.

MARCUS: If she doesn't know, nobody does.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: She was born in '86.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, born right there in Happy Valley.

LEE: Well it was along in the '80's somewhere that this fellow writes about being, about homesteading in Harney County.

MARCUS: Did you know old Winnie Scott?

LEE: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: Did you?

LEE: Winnie and Dick both.

MARCUS: John Scharff talked a lot about the old guy. He used to stay around here with him. Tells about old Winnie and how he hennaed his hair, and ---

LEE: Well yeah, he did.

MARCUS: Yeah.

LEE: Yeah, he did. He did up until the time he died.

MARCUS: And Persian rugs on the floor and all that.

LEE: Had some of the best wine you ever drank. And you'd get invited down there, and drink just as much wine as you cared to drink, and everything. But if you ever got drunk, you never got invited back.

PAULINE: Yeah. Would you like some more coffee?

MARCUS: No, I'm just fine.

LEE: Some tea or anything?

MARCUS: Just right.

LEE: Well --- they raised insurance ...

PAULINE: ... climbing over the cattle station.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: A little station here?

LEE: Yeah. ... I don't know whether you can see the trace of it anymore or not. It's right down, let's see, you're going to have to do a little looking. I think the Thompson house is further up here though.

PAULINE: Now what were these Thompson's first names?

LEE: Lias, Lias was one of them.

PAULINE: Lias?

LEE: I can't --- yeah. L I A S, Lias. I don't know whether it was an abbreviation or something, or what it was. But you know I can't think of the other one's name to save my soul.

PAULINE: But they put up so much more hay every year than they needed for their cattle ---

LEE: Don't think the Thompson's ever run cattle.

PAULINE: They didn't run cattle at all, they just put up hay?

LEE: They just raised hay. Whether --- or where they got their money from, I have no idea. But they were ---

PAULINE: When the country needed hay, they had it, and ---

LEE: They had it, they had it.

PAULINE: And they --- maybe they made enough every fifteen or twenty years to carry them through.

LEE: Probably did. They were apparently pretty wealthy people.

MARCUS: They didn't have to give it all away in income tax in those days, did they?

LEE: No, no.

MARCUS: By gosh those willows have survived quite awhile, haven't they?

LEE: Lasted a long time.

MARCUS: I guess --- they don't see daylight very often.

LEE: No.

MARCUS: They're something. Kinda bare up here now.

LEE: The barest yard that you ever saw.

MARCUS: Let's go down here and get out of the wind.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Lee, we're looking out here, you might back up a little closer to her, out across the upper end of this reservoir and this is where I guess the Agency Ranch and the Thompson Ranch and maybe some others have been flooded out by this Beulah Dam, huh?

LEE: Marcus, the flat that you're looking at across here, if my memory serves me right, was just two ranches, the Thompson Ranch and the Agency Ranch.

MARCUS: Now the Agency Ranch was the PLS, or Pacific Livestock Company Ranch?

LEE: Miller and Lux Ranch, yes.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: There was quite a history attached to this Agency Ranch. Henry Miller wanted this property. It belonged to a man by the name of Overfelt, I believe. Does that sound right?

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah, there was an Overfelt, that's the name in his book anyway.

LEE: And I was trying to recall the iron that this Overfelt used, but it was an iron that the PLS adopted as its own iron.

MARCUS: Well they used the wrench.

LEE: Well I think the "S" wrench, perhaps was the iron that Overfelt used. In any event, why when the time come for this ranch to be sold, there was a man, I don't recall his name, made quite a ride into Nevada someplace to get a hold of a telegraph that he could

let Miller know that this place was for sale. Apparently there were other men wanting the ranch. But Miller got in ahead of them and bought the ranch, Overfelt. At that time this was an Indian Agency in here. An Indian Reservation, I'll put it that way. And somewhere in here why the Agency, the Indian Agency was established. Whether it was on this Miller and Lux property, or whether it was where the store stood at the dam site --- But that's where the Agency Ranch got its name from, being--- Indian Agency.

MARCUS: Well, Lee, was the buildings --- were directly across the lake from us here, where we're standing?

LEE: Just looking right straight across the lake there, it'll be a little north of west across --- it was a little point of high ground runs out there. And there was quite a lot of buildings. A ranch house, and the barns, and the corrals, and the cookhouse, and the bunkhouse, and there was three or four houses where the superintendents lived. At the time that I am familiar with, the ranch foreman had a house. The ranch superintendent for this area had a house where he stayed. And then there was a bunkhouse, and the cookhouse, and there was some more buildings, a shop, and barns, and storehouses.

The, most of the ranches around the Drewsey area were supplied from the Agency Ranch. If they wanted flour, or beans, or prunes, whatever it was, they sent a wagon to the Agency Ranch and stocked up their supplies from there.

MARCUS: This old route that we're following through here, it probably went right through, by the Agency Ranch, is that right? Or was it off of this road a little bit here?

LEE: In my recollection, and in my time, the road was always on this side of the valley.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

LEE: We get farther up the road; I'll show you why.

MARCUS: Across the valley down here on the steel bridge is close to where the dam is now?

LEE: The steel bridge was probably about where the base of the dam is now.

MARCUS: I see. Now we're looking at a row of stumps down here that have been cut off here from a lot of big trees. There must be a history of that too, isn't there? Right at the foot of the hill here, right below us.

LEE: As I told you when we were up on the Agency Mountain, about the Thompson brothers and their hay ranch. This is the site of the house where the --- see those tree stumps?

MARCUS: Oh.

LEE: There was quite a big grove. A two story white house stood there in those tree stumps. The house at the present time is at the Fields place, right --- just west of the Bully Creek Store. Just west of Vale.

MARCUS: Oh it's, it was moved out of here?

LEE: It was moved out of here. The --- Mrs. Fields was the daughter of Billy Jones. Kate Jones, her name was before she married Fields. And apparently she liked the looks of the house. And in any event, she bought the house and they moved it to Juntura. Cut it in two and moved it down to Vale, this side of Vale, and put it back together. Whether she lived in it after they moved it down there, I'm not sure. But the house still stands right out by the side of the brick house that they live in now.

MARCUS: Well Lee, back over here to our right a little bit more, would that be where the Malheur River comes in, or Lost Creek? Does it come in here somewhere?

LEE: You can see that big deep canyon coming in from the right out there?

MARCUS: Yes.

LEE: If my memory's right, why that's Lost Creek a coming in there. Further up, you see that big high ridge, the furthest one over you can see?

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: That should be right in this side of what we call the --- that should be the east slope of Rattlesnake Ridge, if I'm not mistaken. And the river runs right in on this side of that. It's right in that area then where Bear Creek comes in from the northeast. And then right over on the other side there would be towards the head of Cottonwood Creek.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well the Tom Goodman place is generally in that area too.

LEE: Right, right back in that --- I believe it's all Lost Creek.

MARCUS: Yes, it's on Lost Creek.

LEE: Pretty well up on Lost Creek there. And I've been in there, long years ago, but it's been so long that I couldn't tell you just from here where it would be. But of course that was before Tom Goodman ever come in there. And he was in there during prohibition days too, or part of prohibition days. Because he had him a moonshine still in there, and he peddled moonshine to all the people around the country. (Laughter) I guess your buggy team would trot along there five or six miles an hour, wouldn't they Marcus?

MARCUS: Oh yeah.

LEE: And I know a freight team is figured about three miles an hour. A horse a walking along on level ground, about what they'd walk.

PAULINE: We're not going too much awful faster than they were then.

LEE: No, we're not. No, we're not.

PAULINE: In fact I really don't think we're making that good a time.

MARCUS: Yeah. Like the rabbit and turtle, isn't it? (Laughter) We got to go with spurts here.

LEE: Well, we ---

MARCUS: It's pretty near noon, isn't it?

LEE: Yeah it is, ten minutes after.

MARCUS: Ten after noon.

LEE: Boy I sure done some good fishing over ...

MARCUS: Down pretty low too, isn't it.

LEE: Yes, it's empty.

MARCUS: It is empty.

LEE: It's empty. Well I thought --- I don't believe they poisoned that though over ... Murphy's outfits, or --- Let's see, this is all Warm Spring Creek. I would judge that this is the Murphy Ranch here.

MARCUS: I think, yeah, I think I've heard that it was too.

LEE: But there was several people lived in here on the --- Dirty Shirt Jones, and Larry Carlon lived --- had his place right up here somewhere. I think it was back around this turn up here. Where Spring Creek runs back this way. It might be around this turn. Now the schoolhouse used to be right here by this bridge.

MARCUS: See that?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: This is the kind of bridge here that was across down there ...

PAULINE: Thirty miles from Westfall, from Beulah.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: So it would be more or less the same as it was then. Yeah.

LEE: That's what it said, was Beulah?

PAULINE: Well yeah, or near Beulah, yeah. Here's the old Sturtevant place.

LEE: The old Sturtevant.

PAULINE: Was it a stop, or just a ranch?

LEE: No, no, it was just a place.

PAULINE: Says Bill Butler lives here now.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: You can see his chair he whittled out.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Out of a tree.

LEE: Yeah. I don't know what they call this little creek that comes down here.

MARCUS: This is a pretty little place up here.

PAULINE: Yeah it is, it's beautiful.

MARCUS: Stop back here ... there was a house out in through there. It wouldn't be too bad right there, is it?

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Well, you going to take a picture of that?

MARCUS: Yeah. Let's see right over that gate there, get the fence out of the way there. That's pretty ...

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PAULINE: Okay, there we go. We were talking about the Jason Hunter place. You said he had a reputation of being kind of hard to get along with.

LEE: Jason Hunter, when I was a boy, lived on this Hunter place, which is up out of the Agency Valley, going towards Westfall. They raised horses and mules, was their business. And quite a lot of them. Had another ranch over on the South Fork of the Malheur, below Crane. And I've seen at different times, two and three hundred head of horses in one bunch being moved from one ranch to the other. There was four boys, Ralph, and Elmer, and Clarence, and George Hunter. And one girl, Edith, was married to Bill Allen in Juntura. Still lives there. Jason Hunter was supposed to have been a man that was hard to get along with. And didn't want to be bothered with people around, using

any of his property, and things like that, as I've been told.

But my granddad came in here in '94, and run this mail line from Ontario to Burns. One spring the road that we're on now became almost impassible. They was having a terrible time a dragging their stage rigs through it. And my dad had never been around Mr. Hunter to any extent; with any thought that he sure couldn't anymore than tell him no if he asked a favor of him. One day he stopped and asked him if it would be possible for him to go down through his field, so as to miss this terrible stretch of mud on this road. And he said Mr. Hunter looked at him and said, "Why certainly you can go through my place." He told him where to take the fence down. And that was the answer that he got from Mr. Hunter's neighborliness. So from then on why he give us ---

PAULINE: Go down in the meadow.

LEE: --- his field to keep out of this terrible mud. Apparently the spring of the year back in those years the frost started out of the ground it must have been a foot or so of mud, when it thawed out, clear down.

PAULINE: Well this sand right through here is kind of --- this soil is really sandy.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Soft anyway.

LEE: Yeah, it would be impossible to tell how deep the mud might be. I've heard them talk many a time about mud being axle deep to a wagon. So you can imagine what it would be like to drag a wagon or a hack through something like that. The horses a going in deep too.

PAULINE: Now this is the Hunter place here, the home place here?

LEE: This is the Hunter place, the Jason Hunter place. You can see the rail fence.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: That is something that you don't see very often anymore.

MARCUS: You still got some film?

PAULINE: Yep. I better have a picture of that.

LEE: That thing is --- been a pretty well built fence, hasn't it? It's still standing there.

MARCUS: ... there's a place ...

LEE: Marcus, I just don't know.

MARCUS: ... be starting young cottonwood now?

LEE: Oh no, no, no, no, no, no, you're on ---

MARCUS: All down through here ---

LEE: You're on Bendire Creek over on this side.

MARCUS: This is Bendire Creek?

LEE: Yep. I'm sure it is.

PAULINE: If that's Bendire Mountain, it'd about have to be.

LEE: This is the old Levi Wilson place right here, I believe, Marcus. There's a grade coming off of Bendire, I remember that.

PAULINE: Oh, whoa, whoa now.

LEE: I'm sure that this is the Levi Wilson place here. This is where Alice Clark's folks used to live. That's before she was born. She was a Hyatt, but her mother was married to this Warner, Wilson. And there was Harold, and Dick, and --- let's see, Harold and Dick, and young Evan. Harold and Dick, and Evan, and Lizzie Ward. And Harold and Dick, and Evan, was the ones that I remember. Seems like there was another boy. This is the old, must be the old Levi Wilson ---

PAULINE: Well this one is pretty full of water.

LEE: Well --- think where in the devil the house stood. Get over here a little further and you can be sure then. It seems like just as we got down off of the Bendire that we pulled right into their barn lot. After about 19---

MARCUS: There's been something here. See the building over there?

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: On that side.

LEE: About 1911 or '12, the last time that I was along here with the freight wagon, why --- you can forget an awful lot.

MARCUS: That looked like a windmill tower right up through there. See it?

LEE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: I don't see it.

MARCUS: I don't either now; I could see it pretty plain when I was back here.

PAULINE: Oh yeah, now I do. Yeah, there you go. Can you see it now?

MARCUS: It's right down from the juniper tree, right in the bottom of the canyon.

LEE: Oh yeah, I see it now. Yeah, I see it now.

MARCUS: The fence line goes over --- Yeah --- something else again.

LEE: You will get to the place quicker with a --- it isn't as far in a pickup as it is ---

PAULINE: How much further does that sign say up ...

LEE: 23 miles.

PAULINE: 23 miles to Westfall. And we're at the --- we're on the west side of Bendire Mountain.

LEE: Uh huh. Just starting up the Bendire Mountain.

PAULINE: I wonder how well that road would show up in a picture. Probably wouldn't show up worth a darn, would it?

MARCUS: Yeah, I think it would.

LEE: The road line up the ---

PAULINE: Especially the one back up the mountain.

LEE: Go a little further down, we got a big sagebrush over here, Marcus.

MARCUS: How's that?

LEE: Yeah, how's it on your side?

MARCUS: It's fine here.

LEE: Big sagebrush over there. ... Lots of fire and smoke in those freight teams coming off of this mountain.

MARCUS: I'll bet. Lots of cow tracks.

LEE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Is that the old road up there, kind of a ditch up there, I guess.

LEE: Coming up here?

MARCUS: Yeah. That --- no this stuff on the top.

PAULINE: Right there, is that a ditch?

LEE: Oh, it's a ditch. It has been made by a grader or something. No, this is the old road.

PAULINE: We're on the authentic old road right now.

LEE: We're right on it. ... this is real.

PAULINE: This is real. ...

MARCUS: I'm sure it will.

LEE: You going to put some more film in your ---

MARCUS: Yeah, you go ahead.

PAULINE: Go ahead. He's got his thing turned on, so ---

LEE: Can you listen to what I've got to say and fill your camera too?

PAULINE: Sure.

LEE: This incident I was going to tell you about Charlie Cramer and his freight team. He had a line horse, called him Molly. One of the outstanding line horses I guess on the whole country. He'd been drinking quite a bit a coming towards Drewsey, with his freight

outfit loaded with freight, general freight for the stores. And they got to discussing their teams, and Charlie said, "Well, I've got an old horse here that will bring this outfit off of this mountain, and me never touch a line." And the fellow says, "I'll bet you \$5.00 that he can't." And Cramer says, "I'll just call that bet." And set his brakes and stepped off of his old wheel horse and hung the jerk line on the horn, and got in the trap wagon and sent the old team off of here, ten horses, and three wagons loaded with freight. And that horse brought that outfit off of this mountain here.

MARCUS: Holy smokes.

LEE: Yeah. Imagine a man a gambling an outfit that was in those days probably worth several hundred dollars, which was a terrific amount of money then.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: And just putting his, that much trust in one horse. To be able to ---

PAULINE: Well, he knew his horses pretty well.

LEE: If just any little thing would have gone wrong, why he'd of lost the whole outfit, down through here, it seems like. Looks sort of silly now, but the man that was raised with horses, and evidently had more faith in horses than I have in automobiles.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah. ... he wasn't worried about losing a wheel ... (Laughter)

LEE: Going to come off from this?

MARCUS: We're way up here yet.

PAULINE: Well you were starting to tell us too something about, something your dad said about. We were talking about the snow coming off down through here. The watershed, and you started to tell us something.

LEE: He started out from Wilson's, with sled, and was in the wintertime, and they had a drummer with him, as a passenger. And when you get up on top you can see about what

type of country it is, and what it would be like to find your way across it in a blizzard with a couple of three feet of snow on the ground. He got up on top and the drummer wanted to go back. And Dad said, "Yeah". He said, "We'll go up here a little ways, I can't turn around here, but as soon as I can find a place to turn around, why we'll go back." And years later I heard a man from Vale a telling that story. It was Pat Donovan that told it. Dunaway, Pat Dunaway. You've heard of him, haven't you Marcus?

MARCUS: Yeah, I knew him.

LEE: You knew him. And he heard about the saying. And he said, "You know, that was one of the most understatements that was ever made about Vess Williams. If he ever turned around and went back, nobody ever knew it." So they got over to the Fopian Station and this fellow come a crawling out from under the blankets and robes they had in the sleigh. "Boy," he says, "Mr. Williams I'm sure glad we turned around and went back." He said, "We'd have never made it across that mountain there." And he kind of settled back and said, "Well we probably better go to bed." And my dad said to him, "You'd better get your stuff out of this rig, because the stage is waiting right here to take you on to Ontario." And he said that man had the most surprised expression on his face.

PAULINE: He didn't never realize that they, that they'd, he'd gone from this place down here right on over Bendire to Cape Hill ...

LEE: And my dad told him that, "Yes, as soon as we find a place to turn around why we'll go back."

PAULINE: He just never found a place to turn around.

LEE: That was his way of pacifying the man ---

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

LEE: --- making him to keep still so that they could go on. He said several times on that trip across this country, on the Bendire there that he had to get out and put that team back

on the track that night. The team will lose the track, you know, just the same as people.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: He had to get out and stomp around and find that track, and put the team back on it. Once they get them back on it once, why they'd stay with it.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Of course snow beating the horse in the face is just the same as it would be hitting a person in the face, you know. They can't see.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: You get pretty soon so you don't know just which way you are going.

PAULINE: Well you get a little cold and miserable, you don't really care where you're at.

LEE: No. Well that's about all the things that I can remember about this right now. I think

There was a big shearing plant over here at Juniper Springs on the end of this mountain. Where they sheared thousands and thousands, and thousands of head of sheep.

MARCUS: There is quite a lot of sheep tracks ---

LEE: Yeah. He was always ...

PAULINE: Is that sheep tracks?

LEE: That's sheep tracks, yeah.

PAULINE: Well I didn't know that. I just supposed it was the erosion or the way that the --

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LEE: No, no those are sheep tracks.

PAULINE: Oh, for heavens sakes. I learned something new.

LEE: Yeah, this country through here, in the early days there, well even in my time, it was just --- I don't know how many thousands of sheep run in here, or went through this

country in the spring of the year.

PAULINE: Well a good lot of our cattlemen, today's fathers and grandfathers made their money with sheep, before they got into the cattle business. That's the way I understood it.

LEE: Yeah. Well here's the Joyce's down here running cattle. They were sheep men. And my dad run into the cattle business. He run sheep in the early days, when he come in here, after he quit staging. And I guess he had sheep even while he was staging.

PAULINE: Just in hours, do you have any idea how long it took to bring a team down this grade? It figures --- you really wouldn't come down very fast, would you?

LEE: No, no.

PAULINE: You'd just come very slow.

LEE: No, they'd walk along.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: They'd walk along. I'd --- probably about a regular ground gait.

MARCUS: Well Lee, how do we get up this thing with the, with a big load of wool, would you ---

LEE: Load of wool? Just come.

MARCUS: Just double up teams enough to ---

LEE: Yes, they did a lot of doubling up, Marcus. They did a lot of doubling up.

PAULINE: Well they'd bring one wagon up and then take a team back, and back and back.

LEE: No, no, they'd take a string of horses off of one wagon, or one freight outfit. Four or six horses or whatever extra power it would take and hook on ahead of the other horses, come up and then they'd take so many off of that fellow's team, and go back and get his outfit.

PAULINE: Get the other outfit.

MARCUS: Yeah, they'd probably spend a day right here in getting up a couple three outfits, wouldn't they?

LEE: Yeah, they could --- The only place I ever saw them doubling up Marcus, was coming up out of Cottonwood Canyon.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: But I seen them a number of times, they're having to double up to get up out of that canyon there. ... I guess she would know. I'm not sure which one was her --- would have been her step-dad. I kind of believe it was Warner was married. But they called this the Levi Wilson place here. So apparently they ---

PAULINE: But she was married to Laddie Clark.

LEE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: She's Patty Flather's mother then?

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: It would be in between the Agency's. We're between the two Bendire's here now.

MARCUS: Oh, there's two of them, too?

PAULINE: Oh I found out how to spell that too, it's B E N D I R E.

LEE: Yeah, Bendire.

PAULINE: It's ---

LEE: It's a man's name.

PAULINE: It's a man's name. He was an ornithologist, wrote bird books.

LEE: Yeah. I don't know if that's the man they named it after.

PAULINE: Well, I'm, yeah I'm pretty sure it is. He was an officer or something, a soldier at Fort Harney.

LEE: Yeah, yeah. That's how they ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: I knew it was ---

MARCUS: That was the morning coming in, anyway. ... they make trips down to Malheur Lake viewing birds.

PAULINE: I guess he did a lot of drawings, a lot of study.

MARCUS: Yeah.

PAULINE: Published books. Is that a buzzard?

LEE: I don't know. I don't hardly think so. I'd say it's an old eagle, just the way he flops his wings. I don't think a buzzard would have to flop his wings going downhill.

PAULINE: He'd just soar.

LEE: I'm trying to see. He's getting too far away --- if that's a golden eagle, or a bald eagle. The way he flies ---

MARCUS: This normally ought to be good deer country in here, Lee.

LEE: At one time it sure was.

MARCUS: Yeah.

LEE: Probably is now too.

MARCUS: Probably be horseback country.

LEE: What?

MARCUS: It would be a good horseback hunting country.

LEE: You bet. ... buck brush country that wasn't in good shape.

MARCUS: No, no, you bet.

LEE: It's a real high protein feed.

PAULINE: Because they eat the brush.

LEE: Yes, they ---

MARCUS: They like it late in the season too ...

LEE: And they'll eat those, what do they call those little shoots that grow each year?

MARCUS: In the meadow?

LEE: They've got a name for them. Some of them will get four inches long, a good wet year. Maybe they'll get out eight or ten inches. In fact I've made liars out of a couple --- be a good BLM man, one day, we was going up over the mountain there by the ranch. I was telling about the buck brush, and what a growth it had made. I said, "Some of those stems there are as much as fifteen inches long." And they looked at one another, kind of grinned and said, "Well that's pretty long." But --- so we got up on the mountain a ways there, and I got off, and broke off one of them and said, "Here, measure this." Measured the thing and it was a little over sixteen inches long.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: But I think that about three to four inches is probably about a year's growth on that.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: But that's what they'll eat, unless they are forced to eat further in.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: They don't usually eat more than just that year's growth. But if you put the snow deep and everything where they can't get anything else, then they'll go in quite a bit deeper. What I learned in recent years, some of this oh, browse sagebrush is pretty high protein feed.

PAULINE: Yeah, I didn't realize this until several years ago, but there's several, you know, more than a few varieties of sagebrush.

LEE: Oh, yeah.

PAULINE: And some of it is good feed, and others isn't. But it just depends on the kind. I just supposed sagebrush was sagebrush, was sagebrush!

LEE: Well there's quite a difference in all of ---

MARCUS: All ---

LEE: You can see several different ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: --- varieties of browse right out there, not sagebrush, but different varieties ---

PAULINE: Well I don't know what kind we got growing right her, but whatever it is, it's close. I have to take me a hay fever pill.

LEE: Well this kind of brush right here ---

MARCUS: ... oh.

PAULINE: Yeah, it doesn't ---

LEE: Is good browse brush. This we got right here, we always called it rabbit brush.

PAULINE: Yeah, rabbit brush, the yellow.

LEE: Pink flowers on it, no white flowers. No, not the yellow---

PAULINE: No, not the yellow. What's the yellow stuff?

LEE: Well that's rabbit brush too.

MARCUS: Rabbit brush. One kind of it anyway.

PAULINE: Well ---

LEE: See those big dark bushes out there?

PAULINE: Yeah, oh yeah.

LEE: You know it has, some of it has pink flowers, then white flowers.

PAULINE: Oh yeah, yeah.

LEE: That's a good browse brush. But most of the browse brush that I know of is sagebrush like. It grows fairly flat to the ground there. And it usually has a long single stem on it. A whole lot like your buck brush, you know, that year's growth.

MARCUS: We have that on the desert. They call --- Matt Davies calls it chicken brush.

LEE: Chicken brush.

MARCUS: It grows out on the lakebeds.

LEE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Flat areas about this high. And like you say, it depends on the year, but cattle, gosh they just go out there and just take the tops off.

LEE: Yeah, you bet they do, you bet.

MARCUS: That's what I told those fellows when they made our range survey out there. Now don't overlook our sagebrush. And they kind of looked at me like I had a hole in my head, you know.

LEE: Yeah, I know it. Some of those boys are pretty sharp. Jim Sitz says that --- been having quite a time with them. They've been trying to teach them to walk and chew gum at the same time. Says they never got it done yet. (Laughter)

MARCUS: What, what were you doing in there yesterday?

LEE: Oh, we were trying to get an extension --- And I think is that, it could be that Fopian Station I was telling you about.

MARCUS: Oh.

LEE: That Mrs. Fopian, and Kate Fopian and Johnny --- oh McRae's mother were sisters. I suppose Stewart Hannah may be --- that owned this place here, that's where it got its name, Hannah, uh---

PAULINE: Fopian had it before Hannah, didn't they?

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: I heard John Scharff speak of Fopian over in the John Day-Mitchell country too.

LEE: Yeah, they was --- they started this same outfit here.

MARCUS: I don't know them at all. But I --- the name just stuck with me.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: But it sounds ---

PAULINE: But it's a ---

MARCUS: --- French or something.

PAULINE: It's an unusual name; it's a romantic sounding name. It sounds like it's got a lot of glamour behind it.

MARCUS: You bet. A good-looking girl, I would associated with it.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: It was quite a family of girls, according to John.

LEE: Yeah. Bill Bartonie, was the man's name. And I don't know whether Kate was ---

MARCUS: What did you call him?

LEE: Bartonie.

MARCUS: Bartonie.

LEE: Yeah. They're Italians, both the Bartonies and Fopians. See them over the high Fopian trails.

MARCUS: Oh ...

LEE: But I'd have to ask my mother. She's told me a dozen times, but I can't keep it straight. Kate Fopian, whether that was her maiden name, whether Bill Bartonie was her husband, or whether they were brother and sister, or what. But always connected the two of them. See they've moved this road off out to one side here.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: That's quite a trail worn in there.

PAULINE: Yes, it is.

MARCUS: Lee, do you know, I think I've asked you this, maybe I haven't, but what these

China Hat roads are. How they get the name and that.

LEE: You asked me that before, but I can't tell you.

MARCUS: Have you ever had any?

PAULINE: No, I've heard, I've ---

LEE: Where are they located, where are they at?

MARCUS: Well there is one that comes in from the other siding; it comes across by Swamp Creek, and Star Mountain country. It comes in there where --- you know where Jake Hughes used to live?

LEE: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: In right close to Jake's place. And then when you get back out south of Harney Lake, in there, I hear them speak of a China Hat road in there.

LEE: Oh.

MARCUS: Whether it's an old military road, or what ---

LEE: I haven't heard of --- I heard of the name, Marcus. I've heard the name, but I just don't know.

PAULINE: Well I wonder if it's, if it's, you always speak of Saddle Buttes because the buttes look like a saddle. I wonder if there is some connection with ---

LEE: Chinaman's hat?

PAULINE: Yeah, Chinaman's hat. A cone shaped --- kind of mountain.

LEE: Yeah, could be. You know that old cow up there, I bet she's a debating whether to put the rough lock on, or go up over the top. (Laughter)

MARCUS: Low gear ground, you put it in four-wheel drive. She's gonna have to do one or the other here pretty soon.

LEE: Yep. Gonna have to have her a drink for sure, isn't she?

PAULINE: Don't look like there is any water up here.

LEE: Pretty good grass country, isn't it?

MARCUS: You bet.

LEE: Somebody's been up here in a pickup looking at the salt grounds.

MARCUS: ... here again.

LEE: Yes, we are.

MARCUS: My daughter and sister, Mildred, I always remember she's telling about the old ... '97, be four years old, made the trip across here, and she wanted to know where Mr. Bendire lived. She'd heard about Bendire Mountain. Started looking for the old man. (Laughter) Looks like we're going off to another summit here. I don't know where I'm at, I'm lost.

LEE: Well, you're still on the Bendire Mountain, Marcus.

MARCUS: Oh.

LEE: That country you just came across there was, that stretch between the Bendires that I told the story about the peddler that was riding the stage with my dad through the snow storm, and wanted him to turn around and go back.

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

LEE: And so we're coming up on, I guess the real summit of the Bendire. We'll start dropping down on the Bully Creek side now.

MARCUS: Oh, this is Bully Creek just over the top here?

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: Yeah, that creek that runs down by the old Fopian Station is Bully Creek.

MARCUS: Okay, well we'll go down and take a look at them here.

LEE: So they opened this deer up down, skinned of course, it was cleaned out. Hung him up by the horns there and just cut around the neck there, you know, and just started

pulling down. And pulling that hide off that deer, and if you'll peel that hide off the deer from the head down, that lean meat between the skin and the rind of a deer won't stick to the hide, it'll stick the other way.

MARCUS: Oh, oh.

LEE: It's easier to get it off that way.

MARCUS: Well, huh.

LEE: You know when you skin it outside there it's bound to stick.

MARCUS: Yeah.

LEE: Well if you take it down the back there, and then keep pulling it loose from the back, along the backbone, why most of that will stay off --- come off of --- stay on the meat. It was better skinned from the --- peel the hide off from the neck down, then it was the other way. Well he said, in the first place you can hang a deer solidly by the head, and you can get a better pull; and the second place, you don't have to skin the legs out. You just pull the legs --- the skin right off the legs as you go down.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well it would be much easier than to start from that hock up.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: It would be pretty tough ---

LEE: You go the other way, you have to skin the damn legs out, you know. In the spring the shearing corrals is off out in there somewhere.

MARCUS: Oh.

LEE: Marcus, I don't know just where it was. That could be it down in there where that bunch of juniper is, down in this canyon over here, that second canyon over there.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: There's a road that was built around the end of Bendire. Don't worry, it turns off from it. I thought it was down --- did you notice a road turning off to the left anywhere

down there before we got this far, the Wilson place?

MARCUS: Yeah.

LEE: Did you?

MARCUS: Uh huh. There was one went right on over.

LEE: Yeah. They come around the end of the mountain, and then it comes back in down here somewhere, I don't know ---

PAULINE: It looks like there is a road down there.

LEE: --- where it comes in from. And I'm not real sure that I know where Juniper Springs is. But I think it's down in that ---

MARCUS: Well there's a road there, sure.

LEE: Yeah. The historic value and the atmosphere and what have you, that they get out of these old line freight roads is coming back into the picture. You notice this road has been traveled quite a lot.

MARCUS: Boy, they got the grass in here too, haven't they?

LEE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: I'd like to make this trip over here in the spring of the year when this thing is green. This would be worth the time.

PAULINE: I'm coming too.

MARCUS: All right.

PAULINE: Don't you dare come without me.

MARCUS: All right.

PAULINE: Wouldn't this be --- it would --- it'd be beautiful.

MARCUS: Well I'll bet this is a wild flower son-of-a-gun in here, Pauline. Quakies are starting to turn up there.

LEE: Uh huh. ... and unloading them off the cars, of that narrow gauge railroad.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: Coming from Baker City.

MARCUS: They just --- ruins the thing for you then.

LEE: If you know it, yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, if you do.

LEE: I ---

MARCUS: There was a girl the name of ...

PAULINE: 4,515 feet.

MARCUS: Over 400 feet better than Burns.

LEE: settled up.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: By that time, although it seemed to be like when I was a kid in the early 1900's, this was a pretty raw, rough country then. And it seems like to me, looking back at it now, you know.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: But when you think back about those folks that came here in the '70's and '80's, why ---

PAULINE: Yeah. Well I get tickled at talking to some of the people whose families did come here, you know, like before 1900.

LEE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: And you tell them about someone you've interviewed that came in 1913, and they just --- Oh, well they're not ... they're not pioneers, they don't --- you know.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: And of course now those people that came in 1913, the things that they have to tell ---

LEE: They've been here 60 years.

PAULINE: That's right, they've been here a long time.

MARCUS: Well they went through quite a change of our country too.

PAULINE: Yes, they did.

LEE: Yes, they have.

MARCUS: You bet.

LEE: You bet they have.

MARCUS: There is not question about that. The homestead days were pretty rugged, you know.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Well some of the best stories I've got, Katie Wheeler told me.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Down there in Catlow Valley, they came in about 1913 or 1920, they lived down there.

MARCUS: Katie --- sure. She knew what hardships were.

PAULINE: Yeah, I'll tell you ---

LEE: Any of those people that settled in Catlow Valley ...

PAULINE: She said they had ---

LEE: ...

PAULINE: I imagine. They run a trap line on the way to school, catching rabbits. They would set them on the way, and checked them on their way home.

MARCUS: Well, that's what Bill Bradeen told me. Said, "You know, my dad came in here as a homesteader in Catlow Valley here," he said, "in the land booms." And he said, "We know what these early settlers were going through here when they had to butt heads with Pete French." So he said, "They've always had my sympathies." He said, "I can't make a

hero out of Pete French." And he's a looking at the other side of the story.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: He told me, he said, "This Vern French," he said, "we were in the legislature together." He said, "He was quite an orator." He said he came in here and talked to me at great lengths about this book. And he started to write about Pete French. And he said, "I told him then," he says, "you're not going to get your facts straight about this." He said, "Why don't you leave the thing alone." Well he said, "Sure enough he hasn't." Well here they glamorized --- in his case there, why he did his --- Pete French and his marriage with Dr. Glenn's daughter.

LEE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: They had this boy, and he --- then according to the story why he fixed this house up for Mrs. French, and she stayed awhile. And then he fixed up another house and all this whole pooh pooh--- Well it turned out that the lawyer for the family had played around with this daughter and she was pregnant. And Pete French married her --- well this lawyer was, the attorney was --- he was married and had a family.

LEE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Well, he had ... and this woman was never at the "P" Ranch.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And then shortly afterwards, why this fellow divorced --- after Pete French was killed, this fellow divorced his wife and they were married. And then this Dr. Glenn was killed --- his old trusted bookkeeper shot his head off with a shotgun.

LEE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And, well it was along, oh just a few years before Pete French was killed ... About 1890, I think, it was roughly there. And it was kind of a strange turn of events, but

old Jess Bradeen was coming up from California here in recent years, and he picked up a hitchhiker. And got to visiting with him and, "Where are you going?" Oh he said, "I'm going to the "P" Ranch." "Why?" Well he said, "I was working for Dr. Glenn when he got killed down there." He said, "I heard so much about Pete French and the South End, and the "P" Ranch and all those folks, so I just wanted to see." Said, "I'm a hobo. That's kind of my business," he said. "I --- just runs around the country."

But he said, "I saw Dr. Glenn get killed." And leading up to it, he said, he didn't get to see the actual shooting, but he said, "I saw what happened." He said, "Dr. Glenn, he got a crush on a young thing, and so he hired her as a bookkeeper, to have her around." And put her in to work with those old fellows. This is, the old fellow was pretty immaculate in his work and all, and this girl didn't know straight up. Told this girl off, and she flew out of the house and hunted up Dr. Glenn. Well back came Dr. Glenn with the shotgun and a bullwhip. And he said this old tramp told Bradeen, he said, "I was back in the house, I was a janitor and a yard worker around there." When that started, he said, "I stepped around the corner and saw this whole thing." He said, "Dr. Glenn held a shotgun on his old clerk there, and this woman whipped him with the bull whip." So when she got through, well they let the old fellow go. Well he just followed him back into ... and shot his head off for him. And that was the last of his girl too. She got the message, and left with her head on.

LEE: Well, you know, the thing that I'm always admired about those pioneer people, Marcus, it wasn't the things that they did, right or wrong, it was the guts they had it took to do it.

MARCUS: You bet.

LEE: That was the thing that stayed with me.

PAULINE: Well, and they had --- they had true courage.

LEE: They had, they had to have it or they'd --- And they condemned the cattle baron, the sheep king, or whatever you wanted to call him, and the land grabbers and all that. But, you know, there's one fellow told me one time that if everybody had of been settlers like those eastern people are, they'd never have been any West.

MARCUS: Yeah.

LEE: That was the way they put it anyway. Like the railroad --- fellows like Harriman, and those people that roughed their way through things. They had to be that kind of ---

PAULINE: Well they ---

LEE: People had to be that --- turned or they'd have never ---

PAULINE: They --- earned what they got.

LEE: Yes, they earned what they got. And they also earned a lot of what we've got right along at the same time they were learning that.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, they didn't give a damn who they tramped on.

LEE: No, they didn't.

MARCUS: They were just pointed in one direction, and if you got in the road, why it was your bad luck, that's all.

LEE: Yeah. But they left us things that I don't know whether, oh I suppose they would too, under given circumstances. But, gee whiz Marcus, it would be quite a chore to find enough of those rough and ready fellows out of this day and age that would take a wagon train out of Oregon and go across the Pacific Ocean to some of those unsettled countries, wouldn't it?

MARCUS: Oh yeah, you bet.

LEE: And that's virtually what that amounted to when those people with those freight --- those wagon trains left the East to come West.

MARCUS: Boy, that was a big decision to make. Now to take your family and load them up. And you really had to have the adventurous spirits. Really ---

PAULINE: To know that your children, to know that your children might --- probably would die before you got across the plains.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: I mean this ---

LEE: And no sense that grown people wouldn't do it.

PAULINE: No.

LEE: And a lot of them did.

MARCUS: You didn't know what you were going into.

LEE: A lot of them did die.

MARCUS: You bet.

PAULINE: Well that's the thing ---

LEE: Is that snow over there on the mountain?

PAULINE: Well, that's what I've been wondering. I've decided it was ---

MARCUS: I'll bet it is.

LEE: That white ground is --- When you see over in the Westfall country, you begin to see those white dirt show up over there.

PAULINE: Yes. Well that's what I decided it was. But, I don't know. It looks awful white.

MARCUS: It looks awful white, doesn't it? Let me get my glasses here. What are we headed into now, Lee?

LEE: Well, I think we're coming down onto the country there, and you'll have to wait until we get down there a little further. We're coming down into the country where the Fopian Station is down in here somewhere. I think it's further down the canyon there a ways.

PAULINE: Well I think we've just come to the end of another ...

TAPE 3 - SIDE E

MARCUS: He was driving an old poor cow along in a snowstorm, and it was as cold as the dickens. And we stopped and visited with him, and he said, "Well John Hansen," he said, "if you'd have played your cards right, you could have married one of those little Fopian girls, and you'd have been a rich man today, and you wouldn't have to be out here." "Yeah," he said, "that's sure where I missed it." He said, "I could have married one of them too." And I don't know the name of Fopian just rung, and it just stuck with me.

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: And that's all I know about it.

LEE: Yeah. Was that part of the Black Hansen outfit, the sheep men over in the Long Creek country?

MARCUS: No, no, I think he was ---

LEE: Different tribe.

MARCUS: --- he was just, he was a Swede. Talked a little broken. Yeah. ...

PAULINE: Tell me about the fellow with the pitchfork on it.

MARCUS: He had a wooden leg, and he had a pitchfork in it.

LEE: Well Marcus could probably tell you more about it than I could.

MARCUS: Well, that's about it; they didn't make artificial limbs in those days.

PAULINE: Yeah. Well whatever was handy.

MARCUS: He drove a stick and tied it onto the stump and away he went.

LEE: He had ah; he had one leg that didn't grow. And he had one hand that only had three fingers on it.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: He was deformed.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: And they made him a leg out of pitchfork handle. And had him a saddle made so that he could have a pocket to put that bad side in. And old Tom was quite a cowboy too, along with his cooking.

PAULINE: Yeah, camp cook and cowboy.

LEE: Yeah. This is the Fopian place here.

MARCUS: It is? Say, it's about to fall in the creek, isn't it?

LEE: Yes, it is.

PAULINE: Well it looks like some --- I suppose those are hunters. Doggone it; I'll have to tell them to move so that I can get an authentic picture without a bunch of modern ---

LEE: It's a darn shame that you can't.

MARCUS: They're public wagons, huh?

LEE: I'm sure that --- well this has got to be the old Fopian place. ... The grade, the road is right around the bend.

PAULINE: Yeah. It doesn't --- it seems reasonable to believe that this would be it.

MARCUS: Yeah, you know, we haven't been to a stopping place for quite a little while.

PAULINE: No. Well I saved my last four pictures for this Fopian Stop. So I --- it better be very photogenic.

MARCUS: You better get it pretty quick; it's going to fall on his head.

LEE: Yep. Well this is ---

MARCUS: There's a cow on the road.

LEE: Yeah, it's on the right side of Bully Creek all right. It looks like Bully Creek has moved over on this side.

PAULINE: Gee --- the gate's on, and no hunting signs.

MARCUS: I think Bully Creek kind of got out of hand.

LEE: Uh huh.

PAULINE: When the water runs, it goes that way.

LEE: Yeah, yeah, it's going towards us, going towards Westfall.

PAULINE: Well this creek here, you never know, sometimes, you know, you think that the water is running up hill, and it really isn't.

MARCUS: Uh huh. It does it to me sometimes.

PAULINE: Over at Crane, back of Crane is where we get; Allan and I both get mixed up. Water runs the wrong direction over there.

MARCUS: Yeah.

PAULINE: You can sit there and watch it run, and it's running the wrong direction.

MARCUS: The Valley --- the Valley Falls in Lakeview ---

LEE: Uh huh.

MARCUS: --- it runs uphill for me up there.

LEE: Uh huh. Yeah. First time I was ever down there, I looked at that creek. That's when they had us throw a stick in there to satisfy us. No, I'm not kidding you a bit.

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: I know what you mean. I've had to do the same thing.

LEE: And coming down out of Logan or --- or Bear Valley over onto oh, the Silvies side, coming down Camp Creek. I hit Camp Creek; old Tom Lucas had helped me. The tops of the mountain down through the fence, he said, "You can make it now." And hell, I could see Silvies Valley and I come down onto Camp Creek there, and by god, you know, I couldn't tell which way to --- the creek run back this way and I couldn't tell which draw to look up by running, by the water. I finally had to throw a stick in the creek to satisfy myself. And I could see where I was going. It's the damndest feeling --- yeah, it's on the right side of Bully Creek all right.

PAULINE: Well, this looks like maybe there was corrals and things right out in here.

LEE: Yeah, but ---

MARCUS: House has been torn down. There's a gate.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: They've moved this house apparently. Because the barn should have been over on this side.

MARCUS: ... lean to. By golly ---

PAULINE: Well, it's about had it.

LEE: ... I imagine by the looks of it ... he told us to stay away from the barn.

MARCUS: Are you ready to catch this ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Lee, you tell us this is the old Fopian freight station, if you want, you want to elaborate on that a little bit?

LEE: About the only thing that I could tell you that would be of interest to the people nowadays is the fact that this Mrs. Fopian that run the station here was quite a famous cook. And they were well known all over the west for the bed bugs that was in the house.

(Laughter) It was a fact that you could wake up in the night and rub your hand across the wall, and the next morning there'd be a bloody streak across there. Smashed bed bugs!

PAULINE: Oh, gosh!

MARCUS: It'd be your blood too, huh?

LEE: It probably was. (Laughter) But these people were here as far back as I can remember, that run the station. And I don't know when they moved away from here, or when they died, or whatever become of them. But Mrs. Fopian and Mrs. Duncan McRae were sisters. And she was an aunt to Johnny McRae, Lloyd and Mary, and there was

another girl in the McRae family. What's her name, do you remember?

MARCUS: No.

LEE: Anyway, why that was about as much as I know about the history of the thing other than it was a stage stop here. My granddad and my dad kept stage horses here, and changed ---

MARCUS: It was probably a post office too, Lee, would it have been, do you suppose?

LEE: I, I don't remember. I don't remember about that Marcus, I'd have to ask somebody that, I don't remember.

MARCUS: That might not be either. It's pretty well isolated here.

LEE: A post office here.

MARCUS: It appears to be.

LEE: Although in those days there was a world of sheep in this country at sometimes of the year.

MARCUS: Yeah, I'll bet, I'll bet.

LEE: So --- but anyway I do know that it was a stage stop and they kept a change of stage horses here. And a place to stay all night if you wanted to lay over until the next stage came.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: Which quite a few people did that traveled on the stage lines in those days. They would come, 'cause there was a stage along every day, you know.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: Going each way. They got tired of traveling, why they could lay over at a stage stop and catch the next stage, on the ---

PAULINE: Well, this was a two story building then?

LEE: Yes, it was --- to tell you the truth; the thing isn't as large as I remembered the thing.

But of course kids ---

MARCUS: Oh, uh huh.

LEE: --- kids remembrances ---

MARCUS: Well you raise that another story in the air, and it would look a lot bigger too.

LEE: Yes, it would, it would look a lot bigger.

PAULINE: Yes. Well that roof is pretty steep, and the shingles are in pretty good shape for ---

MARCUS: It's, well it's probably been re-done, you see that galvanized ridge on top there too.

LEE: It's ---

PAULINE: Yeah, well that's true too. Well I meant the chimney looks like it's of a modern type of construction too.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

LEE: Well, I'm not going to be too sure about those chimney blocks. Because in my time they made those chimneys out of sand rock ---

PAULINE: Uh huh.

LEE: --- cut them out. Now whether these were cut, or whether they were pressed, did you look at them to see, Marcus?

MARCUS: No, no I didn't pay any attention to them.

LEE: But they, it could be that they were old enough to have been there. More than likely they weren't. But then it's possible they could be.

PAULINE: Well didn't they say that this is owned by the Becker Ranch now, some part of the Becker Ranch?

LEE: Yes, but Wilson somebody owns it. Didn't remember the name, I should have written it down. Not that it matters any. Becker Ranch. Do you recall a few years ago the

Harley Griffin people of Portland, the Ford dealers. Had their advertising in the Sunday Journal, just page after page, after page?

PAULINE: I don't remember, no.

LEE: You don't? It's only been two or three years ago.

PAULINE: Well ---

LEE: They bought this, Harley Griffin bought this place, and his father-in-law was the man that put up the money. And him and his wife separated, and I guess her dad had --- Oh, I'm sure he did.

PAULINE: Do you see anything in there?

LEE: You know him, I know you do.

MARCUS: His brother you mean, with him, or what?

LEE: No, no, no.

MARCUS: He was just a piano player.

LEE: No, he was a rancher out there. But he could play, he could play a piano, and he did play ---

MARCUS: In recent years?

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah, I know who you mean.

LEE: His wife was a sister to Red. Used to be Jimmy Capps' wife. Young Jimmy's, or Francis' mother.

PAULINE: Okay, we're now 8 miles from the Becker Ranch, and 12 miles from Westfall, and 24 miles from Harper.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: 42 miles from Juntura, 53 miles from Ironside, 25 miles from Castle Rock, and 18 miles from Beulah Reservoir, and 2 miles from the Jenkins' upper ranch.

MARCUS: And we're ---

PAULINE: And all right, we're ready.

MARCUS: I went hunting up over ragged rock years ago with ...

LEE: Old Charlie, old Charlie Jenkins, Albert and Harold.

MARCUS: Albert bought my mother's cattle, when we sold them in 1953. in the spring of 1953.

LEE: Whoa, whoa.

PAULINE: I never heard of it. Where's Malheur Station?

LEE: Oh god ---

MARCUS: Oh.

LEE: I can't tell you where it is. Up towards Ironside there somewhere.

MARCUS: Yeah, you go up, up towards Westfall, or Ironsides and then up over top of that hill. Would this be the valley you suppose? I don't know where the hell I'm at.

LEE: Well, we get off out here, why we --- No, no, no, no, uh huh.

MARCUS: Where the road from John Day comes up.

LEE: Yeah. No, it's ---

MARCUS: That would be over top of that surely, wouldn't it, or would it? Came out at Harper and come back up and went to Westfall and around. He said, "It was a good road up Cottonwood." But he said, "We weren't right on the old road." He said, "It's off a little ways up through there." He said, "He don't think you could even travel it in a wet winter. He said, "It was a good road up Cottonwood."

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Well then, so the freight road used to go down ---

LEE: Well the thing that I was trying to --- because Howard Riley told me that a couple years ago him and Jerry come over down through here and they went down to

Cottonwood Canyon. Now whether this is Cottonwood or Indian Creek, I don't know.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

LEE: Cottonwood should come off from this side of the mountain off in here. Because Cottonwood heads back in here.

MARCUS: Well we sure haven't seen any evidence of any road coming in ---

LEE: On that side.

MARCUS: --- in, that I can see.

... (Blank on tape)

MARCUS: He was a piano player.

LEE: Yeah, he would just sit down and just bang the hell out of a piano.

PAULINE: I don't know Garrett Titus, but I've heard the name, and I didn't know he was a piano player.

LEE: His wife is a sister of Red. And Johnny Vales wife was a--- you remember Johnny Vales?

MARCUS: Yeah, I was going to mention them.

LEE: Nellie ---

MARCUS: Nellie was her name.

LEE: A Hannah. She was a sister to him. And then there was Max and Bill. And then Stevie Woodard's wife in Harper here, that run that tavern there, was a Hannah. She was a sister to him. In this canyon at the time that --- usually about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, was when those things would hit. And they would see those clouds back in the west, and they'd hit for high ground because they knew what was a coming.

PAULINE: Well tell that again now. Because I hadn't turned the tape recorder on until you got started. Then I decided that sounded pretty interesting. Start back where you tell about the hills not having too much ---

LEE: You notice those hills across over there that don't have too much dirt on them. Apparently there's lots of rock a sticking up close to the top. And the days that they run the freight teams through here, there were lots more thunder storms and heavy rains, storms than we have now. And the freighters would watch these big black clouds build up in the west, and when they saw those piled up about so far, why they'd pull up out of this Cottonwood Canyon on the higher ground, because they knew pretty soon this heavy rain would hit across up here. And there is nothing to hold it, so it would run right off down into Cottonwood. There'd be walls of water come down the creek. Looked to me like those days fifteen, twenty feet high. Of course there could be several feet different. But in any event the rains turned so much water down the canyon that they couldn't keep any road built along the sides of the creek beds. And I think part of the way down it was right in the bottom of the creek bed. So in order to keep from being washed away, why those freighters knew the signals, and as soon as they seen them, why they pull for high ground, and holed up. I kept a thinking that Bully Creek was off on this side. But maybe I'm mistaken in my, in my directions.

MARCUS: Well by gosh, the roads are going in every direction around here.

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: The other one must be a southern, well-traveled road, and split the difference up there around the ...

PAULINE: Okay, Cottonwood Mountain, Cottonwood Canyon on Cotton-wood Mountain.

LEE: Yeah, that's right. It ends back up here in Cottonwood. You know I told you when we was at the Agency there, you wondered what the name of that big mountain was sticking up there. And I told you, well Camp Creek, and Morris Spring Creek, and Cottonwood Creek all headed on that mountain there.

MARCUS: Yeah. They're still pointing down the country with this one though.

LEE: Yeah. This big high range of mountains sticking up back in here somewhere. That must be it, you see it sticking up ---

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: Apparently pretty high, pretty high mountains because the snow comes along early, and stays pretty late.

PAULINE: And they call those the Westfall --- the Westfall Mountains.

LEE: The Westfall Mountains, yeah.

PAULINE: Now there is water down here I see in this --- the bottom down here. And that's Indian Creek, you think?

LEE: No, no, Cottonwood.

PAULINE: Or now? Cottonwood Creek over here, okay. This was Indian Creek back ---

LEE: Apparently this is Indian Creek over here.

PAULINE: ... is.

LEE: It came right down through here.

MARCUS: Yes it did. This maybe is them, all right.

LEE: It would have to be.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: It would have to be.

MARCUS: You can pretty near see a tail light down through here.

PAULINE: Well this is a sharp turn all right, Lee.

LEE: Huh? Kind of run in my mind that ---

MARCUS: An old road right up there.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah, that's ---

LEE: Kind of run in my mind that those tracks in the sand rock were right before you

started dropping down into it. I didn't see a sand rock.

PAULINE: No, I didn't ---

MARCUS: No.

...

LEE: Made that dam out of rock, and they --- its beautiful work too, as I remember it.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's kind of a Scotchman's business ---

LEE: Yeah.

MARCUS: --- laying rock.

LEE: Out here, there's no such thing as bridges down here. ...

PAULINE: Where it crosses, crossed the bottom, creek bottom.

LEE: Yeah, yeah.

PAULINE: I wonder what creek, Indian Creek or Westfall?

LEE: Indian Creek, that must have been Indian Creek we was coming down there.

MARCUS: Yeah, that was Indian Creek. Yep.

PAULINE: Okay, well it's 22 miles to Cottonwood Reservoir, 22 miles to the Decker horse camp, 2 miles to Westfall.

LEE: I don't know what you call the ...

MARCUS: I don't either. I think I can get that.

LEE: Can you do it? Belongs to --- I know they ---

PAULINE: Yeah, I've heard of ---

LEE: I don't know the story of it, Marcus. I'll get that story for you if you've got the book of "Westfall Country," that stone house, that went into it in detail ... Do you have that book?

PAULINE: No, I don't, but I'll find it.

LEE: I have it there at home. I have it there at home. More than likely there could be one at the library in Burns, but if it isn't, I'll let you have it.

PAULINE: Do you know what the name of it is?

LEE: What?

PAULINE: The book. Yeah.

LEE: The book? The "Westfall Country".

PAULINE: The "Westfall Country". I've never heard of that one.

LEE: "Westfall Country" was written by a man that used to drive stage for us. And what was his name? Charlie --- Charlie Russell, might have been. But he just died here last year.

PAULINE: Well I'm pretty sure the library doesn't have that book.

LEE: Yeah. Well it probably doesn't. ...

PAULINE: Yeah, yeah.

LEE: Here, the next one, or the next one down.

MARCUS: What did you call it, Lee?

LEE: Claypool.

MARCUS: Claypool. Oh, yeah.

PAULINE: This would be, Joe Altnow's ---

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: --- grandparents.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Were Claypools.

LEE: He told me that Joe Altnow --- or Joe Claypool lived on Dry Creek. Reuben or Rube lived here, but I --- I knew there was a Claypool lived here, and I thought it was Joe Claypool. But I could be mistaken.

MARCUS: By gosh, I'll bet that's Westfall right there.

LEE: That kind of looks like the house there. This would have to be the house back

there.

PAULINE: Yeah. This is Westfall, and I'd better get a picture to get to the end of my trail here.

LEE: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: You bet.

LEE: No, it's on the wrong, it's on the wrong side of the ---

PAULINE: Well Cottonwood Mountain is that way. That's where we should have come out.

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Right?

MARCUS: 16 miles, Harper is 12. There's the schoolhouse over there I guess, isn't it?

LEE: Yep. I'd say it was. Can you see any sign of ---

PAULINE: All it says is a Westcott oil dealer.

MARCUS: Well here it looks like a post office or saloon, or something over here.

LEE: Yeah. I know that gal that runs this post office here.

MARCUS: Well I ---

LEE: He had heard about it, but he didn't know just what all to use it for. Trading men being what they are, they built him up a little bit, told him that they used it for pretty near everything. You could use it for building material. They could use it for insulation, and a number of other things. And amongst the items he mentioned, he said that if you were real lucky today they'll have something for dinner. That was the days when the railroad stopped at these places for dinner, and Harper was one of the main ones. They came into the station and stopped and said, "Thirty minutes for dinner." And the federal man said to this fellow, "Come on, let's go over to the hotel and see if they got something for dinner?" They went in and they had some cornstarch pudding. "By golly," he said, "we're

in luck today." See it was all fixed up for us.

PAULINE: Yeah, "dynamite", dime a mite?

LEE: Yeah. "Dianamite!" That young fellow ate it, tasted it, and studied on it a little bit, and by George he says, "That is good, isn't it?" And the people that were running that hotel at the time is that old man that is ... at the Vale Nursing home. He's been married for about 77, or 78 years.

PAULINE: Oh, really?

LEE: Yeah.

PAULINE: Yeah.

LEE: They were running the hotel there.

PAULINE: Well the drummers that came through the country were good for a lot of good stories, I guess from what I hear.

LEE: Another one, and I heard this fellow actually say it. Look at the ---

MARCUS: Damn right.

LEE: Shut that thing off ---

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bl