

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #226 - Sides A & B

Subject: Lloyd & Marian Howe (With Video)

Place: Howe Home, Hines, Oregon

Date: July 17, 1989

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy and we're at the home of Lloyd and Marian Howe in Hines, Oregon. We will be discussing with them some of their life and history in Harney County. The date is July 17th, 1989. Lloyd, would you like to briefly describe some of your history, and tell us about yourself?

LLOYD HOWE: Well, as near as I remember, of course I don't remember, my folks came here sometime in the '80's, 1880, and I think they raised a family here of six children. There was six of us. I was the youngest. They're all gone now but me. And my oldest sister Edna married William George. And they have three daughters. And they all live here in Burns, and their children and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. So I have quite a few relatives on that line here.

But the folks came here, when they first came, took out a homestead, and then rented a place to live on while they built the homestead house where I was born. And that's, the place they rented was what was part of the old Acton Place; it used to be. It became that, I mean. I, first thing I can remember is things that happened on the homestead as a small boy, there was always a water bucket setting on a bench in the kitchen, because they hauled water from the river. They had no water on the homestead. And along with that, they kept a slop bucket that they carried the dishwater in that went out to the pigs like they used to. And they set that under the bench. Well my brother was

kind of a ornery bugger, and he was always playing tricks on me. And I got pretty perturbed at him one time, and I was watching him, he always got a drink of water just before he went to bed. So I changed the slop bucket for the water bucket, and went on upstairs. I never told him about that until --- a good many years that I was the one that put it there though.

BARBARA LOFGREN: You didn't want him to beat up on you then.

LLOYD: No. Well they kept a rain barrel outside too, to catch what water they could. And my father went out there one time, as a boy, when I was a boy, and there was a bunch of bees swarming. He wanted to settle them, so he went out there pounded on a tin pan, and took me with him. All at once he grabbed his hat and run, and dove his head into that water barrel. And he'd had a hole in the top of his hat, and the bees had arrived.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

LLOYD: So I can remember those two things pretty plain about the homestead. Anyway, I started to school in the Wolf Creek School, used to be Wolf Creek School. It's over the hill from where they, I think they still call it Wolf Creek School, down on this side. It was over the hill, and there was a small butte there where we had a slide for skiing and stuff. I put my first year in there. It was shortly after that my parents moved to the Willamette Valley. And we, I stayed there until I think, worked around after I was a boy. Got from home, and then worked there until I was fifteen. I come up just when I was just almost sixteen, back up here myself. I don't know much, only I worked around different ranches, and finally I was working for Ralph Chambers. He decided I ought to break some horses for him, which was something I'd never tried. But I got started at that, so I did break horses around the country. In fact, for the Pacific Livestock Company that used to be out here, I broke a string of horses for them, 13 head of them. Stayed at the Lamb Ranch

and broke them. I followed that kind of life for, I forget, I think in '32, I rode a horseback with a friend, Shy Davis, down to Lebanon, Oregon. We went over the mountains a horseback and down, and that's where I met my wife, down there. So things was tough on that ranch down there. We heard of a job, and we come back. And I think she thought this was the most desolate country she had ever seen at that time. Because there was lots of grass in the Willamette Valley.

BARBARA: Right.

LLOYD: But anyway, we stayed here then for a while. Well I worked on different jobs then. And for a while run the place that, Larsen place out by Drewsey, out from Drewsey, until he, we decided there wasn't any future in that. I went from thirty dollars a month to forty-five dollars a month when I started running the place. (Laughter) And she got her board for cooking for us, for me, or for the ranch hands, whatever. We decided there wasn't any future in that, so she went back to college so she could teach.

When she finished college, when she finished her courses, she had already been to college, when she finished her term so she could teach, she got a job. And I started to school. And for two, well the better part of two years, and I bought into a business there. An upholstery, which I tried to learn in school. We stayed there until we finally moved to Alaska in '46, and stayed up there for twenty years, which we put in, tried a little bit of everything.

I was in a fire department off and on for ten years. I was a fire fighter. We worked in the canneries, worked with the machinery.

I run a guiding and outfitting for Kodiak Bear Hunting for several years, another fellow and I. And we stayed there twenty years, and then come back to Albany.

I suppose we wouldn't have came, if her mother kind of needed us. We come back

to Albany, stayed there until I said I was going to retire, and then we moved up here. That's my --- I had to come back home. (Laughter) So that's about the size of it.

BARBARA: Did you go to college in Corvallis or Eugene?

LLOYD: Yes, in Corvallis.

BARBARA: At Oregon State.

LLOYD: Yes, I had to take a special entrance exam because I didn't finish high school.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

LLOYD: No, I was working my way and trying to make money enough to go to high school. And my father got pretty ill one winter, and so I lied to him. I told him that I wasn't going to pass that grade anyway, and I'd come home and work the place. So that was the end of my schooling.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

LLOYD: Till I went back ---

BARBARA: Well you certainly had a varied, career-wise here.

LLOYD: Well, I always had itchy feet I guess, because we didn't stay any too long in any one place. But I always remembered this country, and I liked it as a boy. I suppose one thing, my brother; the one thing I can remember on the homestead was him riding a bronco. And boy, that struck me that would be the only thing. Well I had to try it a few years.

BARBARA: And where did you say your family's homestead was?

LLOYD: Well the homestead was, if you know where the old Wolf Creek School was, it was just about a quarter of a mile east, right down there from that. Where the old, where the old school was. That's as near as, it's not too far from the river there. You know which was the Acton Place?

BARBARA: No, I don't.

LLOYD: I don't know who owns it now.

MARIAN HOWE: Mike Acton.

DOROTHEA: Is this Mike Acton?

LLOYD: Mike Acton, yes. I don't know who owns it now.

DOROTHEA: I don't either. I don't know too much about Drewsey. We're going to learn a little bit more. We're going to see if we can't find some people out there to interview. But --- what are your parent's names?

LLOYD: Father's name was Edwin Willard Howe.

MARIAN: Wallace.

LLOYD: Wallace, I mean. Edwin Wallace Howe. And I don't know what my mother's middle name was. Lou.

MARIAN: They said she didn't have another name, just Lou.

LLOYD: Near as I know, I never heard of any other name but Lou.

DOROTHEA: That was her first name?

LLOYD: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And her maiden name was?

MARIAN: Robertson.

LLOYD: Robertson.

DOROTHEA: Robertson.

LLOYD: Uh huh. One thing that we did when I was a boy, small boy, they took a covered wagon and we went across the mountains down to Dayton, Oregon, and stayed one winter there. And I can remember a few things about that trip, although I was only four years old. But that is where I first got in my trouble was smoking too.

DOROTHEA: When you were four years old?

LLOYD: My older brother smoked, and he would lay a piece of a cigarette down on the ashtray, or what he used for an ashtray. And we stayed in the tent that winter because we was staying at one of my aunts, my father's sister's place. And so we lived in a tent, him and I. That is, we slept there. So when he was gone, I'd go in and pick up his snipe, as they called them, and try them. And he caught me at it one day. And he decided he was going to break me of that, young. Because he got the habit young, and he was going to break me of it. So he said, "Well" he said, "there is some things that will kill you, so you smoke this pipe." And he give me an old corncob pipe. Well he broke me of a pipe all right for a good many years. I really got sick on it. But I never did get to quit smoking until I got old enough to, should have quit years ago. But I finally did.

DOROTHEA: How many children did you say was in your family?

LLOYD: Six.

DOROTHEA: Six. All boys?

LLOYD: Just two boys.

DOROTHEA: Two boys. What was your brother's names?

LLOYD: Ernest.

DOROTHEA: Ernest, and you. And your sisters?

LLOYD: Edna, do you want who they married, or do you care?

DOROTHEA: Yes, let's go ahead and do that too.

LLOYD: All right, Edna the oldest one married William George, from out by Drewsey. They lived on a little homestead up there. I'm sure they homesteaded it. Sadie married Jack Drewitt.

DOROTHEA: Jack Drewitt.

LLOYD: Uh huh. How do I, Vidah ---

MARIAN: Vidah didn't marry.

LLOYD: She didn't marry up here. She come back though. But I can't think of their name.

MARIAN: Howard, Tom Howard.

LLOYD: Huh?

MARIAN: Didn't she come back with a Tom Howard?

LLOYD: No, no.

DOROTHEA: What's her name?

LLOYD: Vidah.

DOROTHEA: Vidah.

LLOYD: I can't think of the --- well. She finally married a Howard. But that was her second husband. No, that was her first husband; I beg your pardon. But when she come up here, that was after her second marriage, so she married a man by the name of Howard. No, Howard Wessner, now I get it straight, pretty quick. Howard Wessner. I couldn't think. And she got married in the valley. Mabel, was, well yeah, wait a minute. Tex was, as we called him, Ernest was the next one. And ---

MARIAN: Mabel was the other girl.

LLOYD: Huh?

MARIAN: Mabel was the other girl.

LLOYD: Yeah I know, but she was the last one. I was trying to give them in order. And then Ernest, I can't remember, he married Gladys Conser.

DOROTHEA: C O N S E R?

LLOYD: Yes. And ---

DOROTHEA: And Mabel ---

LLOYD: And Mabel married Arch Huffman.

BARBARA: And did most of them end up staying around Harney County?

LLOYD: No.

BARBARA: Or did they move out?

LLOYD: No, no, Sadie and Edna stayed here until, well Sadie retired, I guess. And Vidah was back and forth, I mean she, her and Howard I can't remember. Anyway they had a falling out some way or other, and I guess there was a divorce. I can't, I was so young on some of that, that I can't remember. Howard Wessner was a Pennsylvania Dutchman, and he was as hardheaded as they come. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Now are you related to the Drewitts that had the restaurant here?

LLOYD: I'm not related to them in any way. The only Drewitts were in the family, was married my sister. And so that doesn't make me ---

DOROTHEA: Well I meant were they related?

LLOYD: Not that I --- there is one other brothers around someplace. I met him up here in a park one time, when we was out just running around fishing and stuff. I don't remember what his name was. He was a Drewitt though.

MARIAN: Yes, and what was ---

LLOYD: Huh?

MARIAN: What's Clarence's wife's name?

LLOYD: Yes. I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Clarence, or ---

MARIAN: Cronin.

LLOYD: Well, we was trying ---

DOROTHEA: Clarence Cronin.

LLOYD: No, he is no relation. We was just trying to figure somebody out here.

MARIAN: Was a Drewitt that was related to Jack.

LLOYD: Yeah. His wife. What was --- Clarence --- oh what was her name?

MARIAN: Just talked to her the other day in the store.

LLOYD: Yeah. They was no relation, only that the --- somewhere

DOROTHEA: Is that Thelma?

MARIAN: Yeah.

LLOYD: Yeah, Thelma.

DOROTHEA: Thelma Cronin.

LLOYD: She is the ---

MARIAN: She was a Drewitt.

LLOYD: She was a Drewitt.

BARBARA: So when were you born?

LLOYD: 1909.

BARBARA: 1909. And here in Harney County?

LLOYD: Yes. Last day of the year.

BARBARA: Oh, December 31st, my goodness.

LLOYD: Yeah, when I signed up for a --- what do you call it ---

MARIAN: Pioneer Day.

LLOYD: Pardon?

MARIAN: At Pioneer Day.

LLOYD: Pioneer Day, they asked me when I came here. And I told them in 1909, and

they kind of backed off and looked at me. (Laughter) And when we were in Alaska, we --- oh, we done several things there. I was on a Navy base for a while. And then when I got through there, I started this guiding and outfitting for Kodiak Bear Hunts. This old boy up there, that picture is one of them. And we followed that for several years, and commercial fished at the same time. Run a fishing boat up there. When we finally quit that I went to work for a cannery. And we both worked for that outfit until we left there.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and you went to school down in the valley?

LLOYD: Yes, after we left here.

DOROTHEA: Most of your schooling.

LLOYD: Went, started at Crabtree after I moved from here.

MARIAN: He took his first and second grades at Wolf Creek.

DOROTHEA: First and second grade?

LLOYD: And I was there one year. My schooling got kind of pushed together. Because the first year that I was in high school, which was the 9th grade, used to be, I was thirteen that winter. And they used to push kids, you know, that way. Kind of spoils your fun though for the sports and stuff.

BARBARA: For the socializing part of it.

LLOYD: Yes.

BARBARA: And you say you worked for the PLS Company for a while here.

LLOYD: Pacific Livestock Company, oh yes. I worked on their ranches off and on, a lot of different times. I'd, I don't, like I said, I had itchy feet I guess. I would work awhile and then move, and do it again. But I broke horses for them out at the Lamb Ranch, a string of horses out there. Then rode with cattle and stuff at the time.

BARBARA: Who were some of the other men that you worked with at that time? Do you

remember?

LLOYD: Oh, Ralph Chambers, and I worked for Ace Johnson.

DOROTHEA: Ace?

LLOYD: Ace Johnson, yeah. He used to be out there. That is, these were mostly just short jobs, all of them though. Like I say, I kind of rambled around. I worked more for Chambers than anybody else, different times. Just, every time I was out of a job, why it seemed like he had a place, he'd send for me. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Well that was nice.

LLOYD: Even after we were married, things was awful tough. We got married in '33.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

LLOYD: And things was pretty tough in the valley. He sent word down, if we wanted to come up, there was a job for me here. So we come back up to the country again. But that's when she first come to this country.

BARBARA: And you say she cooked then for some of the ranch hands and things?

LLOYD: Oh, yeah.

BARBARA: To help out when you came here.

LLOYD: She earned our board; if that's the way you want to put it I guess. (Laughter) Yeah, she had, quite a difference for her to see this country all right, at that time. But I worked for, oh let's see, Chet Stallard awhile, Tom Howard, and ---

DOROTHEA: Is that Chet?

LLOYD: Chet, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Chet Stallard.

LLOYD: Uh huh. Not too long. And Larsen, Ernst --- Ernst Larsen.

DOROTHEA: E R N S T ?

LLOYD: Uh huh. He had the, what used to be the, oh it's what they call the ---

MARIAN: Anderson.

LLOYD: Anderson Ranch. And I worked there for him awhile. Then finally he went off and left us running the place. And that's when we decided that, better do something else for a living.

DOROTHEA: Well you know ranching hasn't changed much yet today.

LLOYD: Well, it's quite a little different though. When we were riding, we was up early enough to get our horses and get out to where we had to do the work a horseback. And that's the way we got home, if we got home. And when we was riding after the wagon, we didn't come home, you know, just followed the wagon. Wherever you could throw a bedroll down, from the time you had to use it. A fellow by the name of Charles Miler was the buckaroo boss, or buckaroo boss for the Island and, well the PLS Company Ranches, different ones. He was the riding boss, they call it. And he was a pusher. I mean it was from as early you could see, and as late as you could.

DOROTHEA: Did you work with Buck Miller? Is he older than, quite a lot older than you?

LLOYD: I don't know Buck.

DOROTHEA: I thought he might have been a buckaroo boss or something. Because he worked out for the PLS.

LLOYD: Well he might have worked on this side.

DOROTHEA: Island Ranch and ---

LLOYD: Oh yeah. You see I done most of my work on the other side.

DOROTHEA: On the other side.

LLOYD: I was over here once after cattle when I was breaking, first started breaking those horses. I rode one of them over here with the boss. We took a bunch of cattle back

over that way. And that's the only time I ever worked on the Island Ranch. And we just gathered those cattle and went back. So I didn't know, there is a lot of these characters that I heard of, but I didn't know them.

DOROTHEA: My dad worked for the PLS up in the, where the company corrals and all that is, up on the Malheur Forest.

LLOYD: Oh.

DOROTHEA: And --- but he's about eight years older than you are. So he was about 14, 15 years old at that time. So that would make you only just a small child. So I doubt if you knew him either.

LLOYD: Yeah. No. What did you say his last name was? Buck Miller?

DOROTHEA: Buck Miller --- my dad's last name was Howes. But Buck Miller was the one that was the buckaroo boss.

LLOYD: Is he any relation to the Millers over there, well I'm trying to say which one.

DOROTHEA: Buck Miller is a son of George Miller, and brother to oh, all the Millers that are out on the Double O, and out in that area. Don Miller is the man's son, Taft Miller.

LLOYD: I thought maybe there was some Millers over in that country. But I was just trying to think of their names now, can you, just all at once?

MARIAN: ...

LLOYD: You know you get stupid after you get about so old. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well you know, our problem I think a lot of it is we don't sit around and talk like we used to. And I think this is where we forget a lot of the old age people, because we don't sit around. Our parents used to sit around and visit and have card parties, and picnics, and things like this. But we don't do that anymore so much.

MARIAN: You talked about what people were doing, because we didn't know what all the

country was doing.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARIAN: Foreign countries.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Well what did, when you came over here and you were cooking and that sort of thing, what did you end up doing for fun? Or did you have time to have any fun? Did you go to dances, and card parties, like that?

MARIAN: Dances mainly. At the Drewsey Grange was where we would go. You danced all night; they danced till they could turn the lights off.

BARBARA: I see.

MARIAN: And then you went home and did the chores. (Laughter) If you were lucky, you got to go to bed for a little while.

LLOYD: Very seldom.

MARIAN: Yeah, we did some visiting.

BARBARA: Did you have any close neighbors?

MARIAN: Just Thelma Cronin and her husband Clarence. We visited back and --- we weren't close actually. And they came, after we were on the Larsen place, they'd come over one Sunday and have dinner with us. We'd go over to their place. We visited with the Cleveland's, Victor Cleveland's family.

LLOYD: Yeah, they lived just a little ways above us.

MARIAN: But those were our closer neighbors.

BARBARA: What was Drewsey like at that time? I have never been to Drewsey, to know. Was there several stores, or a hotel, or anything like that?

LLOYD: No, just one store. But they had a hotel, and what they called the pool hall. I

don't know why, because they had soft drinks and I think maybe one time there was a pool hall in it. And at one time it was also a speakeasy, whatever you want to call them. If the right people would go in, they could buy beer or whatever. I was in there one time when a couple --- I suppose prohibition officers, because that's what the guy ... Davis thought they were anyway. They come in, and they wanted to know if they could get some home brew there. "Oh yeah," he says, "I can sell you some Tacoma Brew." " Tacoma Brew," he said. So they put it out and, "Well this isn't home brew." "I didn't say it was," he said, "that's Tacoma Brew". That was Near Beer if you knew anything about it.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

LLOYD: Just nothing but an imitation. It wasn't ---

BARBARA: So they couldn't catch them.

LLOYD: No. And they ---

MARIAN: And the lodge, wasn't the Rebekah and Odd Fellows Lodge Hall was there at that time.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, there was a Rebekah and Odd Fellow Lodge Hall out there.

LLOYD: The main, there was just the one main store when we were here. I never did know of any other store in there, even when I was a boy. Just that one. Jerry Drinkwater owned it at that time. BARBARA: About how many people would you say were in the community?

LLOYD: I don't know much --- Drewsey itself, maybe there was, I don't know how many families lived there, really. Because when we went down there, it was usually at night to go to a dance. We went there, we went home. When you worked on a ranch in those days, you pretty much was tied to the ranch.

BARBARA: Right, uh huh.

LLOYD: It was, like I said we could go after work in the evening and go to a dance, but the next morning had to be home ready to go to feeding cattle or something ready again. So what people you met was at the dances mostly. Because the people she is talking about, we visited with were, the boys were friends of mine when I was single there. So that's --- Cronin boys.

DOROTHEA: I don't know whether I introduced Barbara Lofgren at the beginning of this. And she will be doing the videos. So maybe I better bring her name into this. I'm getting a little forgetful here lately, and I've forgotten to do this. But she will be doing a video with this tape, in the latter part of it. So this strange voice we have been getting in every once in awhile is Barbara Lofgren. I'll introduce her in the tape so they'll wonder who's that other voice. (Laughter)

Can you tell us something about --- well, more or less describe your life in Drewsey after you came back.

LLOYD: After we were married?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

LLOYD: It definitely wasn't in Drewsey.

DOROTHEA: It wasn't.

LLOYD: It was out on the ranch. It was close, pretty close to Van, what used to be Van. That's where Cleveland's place --- And they were about, I guess, our nearest neighbor. Well Acton, Actons was closest.

MARIAN: Well Jack Baer lived between ---

LLOYD: Yeah, Jack Baer lived up there the other way. And ---DOROTHEA: Jack who?

LLOYD: Baer.

DOROTHEA: B E A R ?

LLOYD: No, I think it's ---

DOROTHEA: B A R E ?

LLOYD: I don't know. Never saw it in print that I know of.

MARIAN: I don't remember ---

LLOYD: I think it was like B A E R, I'm not sure.

DOROTHEA: Oh, oh, okay.

LLOYD: There was, let's see about five miles, that was about our nearest neighbor wasn't it? I guess.

DOROTHEA: And Marian, did you teach school in Drewsey?

MARIAN: No, my teaching was just a few days of substitute teaching.

DOROTHEA: In Drewsey, or just period?

MARIAN: No, at Pine Creek.

DOROTHEA: At Pine Creek.

MARIAN: When the teachers wanted to leave early for Thanksgiving or Christmas vacations, then I would go up and teach.

DOROTHEA: Well I thought you had taught school in Drewsey. But, like I said, I'm not too familiar with --- I thought that's what you had done. But ---

MARIAN: I went to school when I left here, when we left, was when I went back to Normal School so I could teach. And one of the girls that lived in the same house with me, when she graduated, I brought her; she got the position as the Drewsey teacher.

DOROTHEA: And what was her name?

MARIAN: Harriet Enny.

DOROTHEA: Can you spell the last name?

MARIAN: E N N Y.

DOROTHEA: E M M Y. (*Corrected to Enny)

MARIAN: And we brought her up here, and she was to stay with Mrs. Drinkwater.

DOROTHEA: Castolia?

BARBARA: That's strange, out of the whole state of Oregon that she would end up in Drewsey, where you had come from, isn't it?

MARIAN: Yes. When I came back up here, just visiting Castolia one day, I couldn't remember Harriet's last name. And just like that, she told me her name after all these years.

BARBARA: Oh, for goodness sakes. So where did you do your major part of your teaching then, was that in the valley?

MARIAN: Yes. Around Albany.

BARBARA: Around Albany.

MARIAN: And then I taught in Alaska.

BARBARA: I see. And what was --- did you teach elementary school, or ---

MARIAN: Rural schools.

BARBARA: Rural schools.

MARIAN: ...

BARBARA: I see.

MARIAN: It was a village school in Alaska on the Navy village.

BARBARA: And do you have children?

MARIAN: Yes, our daughter was born up here in this old Highway Motel.

BARBARA: Oh, for goodness sakes.

MARIAN: And when she was here a few years ago, she took a picture of it. She said it wouldn't stand forever. (Laughter) So she took a picture.

DOROTHEA: Well it didn't stand forever, probably right after that is when they tore it.

LLOYD: It's still open.

DOROTHEA: Oh, the Highway Motel.

LLOYD: Yeah.

MARIAN: It's this side of the City Center Motel.

DOROTHEA: Okay, right.

LLOYD: It's still there.

DOROTHEA: Okay, I was thinking about the one on further this way, where the bank is now. The --- oh, what is it, Hines Credit Union. BARBARA: And what is her name?

MARIAN: Joyce.

BARBARA: Joyce.

MARIAN: Stewart.

BARBARA: Do you have other children?

MARIAN: We have a son, James.

BARBARA: James.

MARIAN: He was born down in the valley.

BARBARA: I see.

DOROTHEA: You'll have to change your name and put an S on that, because I want to put an S on it.

LLOYD: Take the S off of yours, that would be easier.

DOROTHEA: Take the S off of mine, that ought to be easier.

LLOYD: Yep.

DOROTHEA: Well, do you remember, you rode a lot of horses; do you remember when you got your first car?

LLOYD: I can remember approximately when I got my first car. Because I was too young to get the license when they made it a law in Oregon that you had to have a driver's license. And you couldn't get it until you were sixteen. Well I had to wait a little while to get it. Because I had the car, that is if you counted a Model-T, I had a car. (Laughter) But, and then I had several of those off, different times. I can remember better when we got our first new one. That was ---

MARIAN: That was a long time ago.

LLOYD: Well, the first new one we got was a Jeep. Yeah. That's when we were in Alaska.

DOROTHEA: In Alaska. I imagine you needed a Jeep in Alaska. Was it cold up there, can you tell us something about the weather, and how you survive in Alaska?

MARIAN: It was fairly mild because we lived on an island. It was windy; we had the chill factor all the time. We lived on a Navy base when we first went up there. That was where Lloyd was working. Then we moved out to a Navy village on the opposite side of the island. That's where he was in the guiding business, and fishing. I taught school. Then I ran a general store, was the postmaster. And we --- wasn't actually any harder to survive than it is here in Harney County.

DOROTHEA: Probably easier. Since you have been in Harney County, you've seen the bad years of Harney County.

LLOYD: Well, when we were out there on the ranch we saw cold weather. I mean cold. Way below zero. And when we come up here they said, oh boy, this is a pretty hard winter. And I couldn't figure it, because it never did get much below zero the first couple years we were here. They said that was a bad winter. And we saw it 40, 45 below zero out there.

BARBARA: Do you think it was colder, and you had more snow during the time that you were growing up, then when you came back to do your buckaroo work, than it has been the last ten, fifteen years here?

LLOYD: Yes, yeah. Oh yeah, we had snow drift over the fence lines. We used to have about two to three foot of snow out there every winter, didn't we; I would say we had two anyway.

MARIAN: At least.

LLOYD: Yeah. And cold. I got word of a horse that belonged to the fellow I was working for, for Larsen, he had got it penned up in a field where he couldn't get any feed or anything, and had to go get him. Well I went after him. And it was far enough that I had to sleep out. I was gone one day, and over night, and back the next. It dropped down to what was, 42 below wasn't it, when I was gone, dropped down. I frosted my fingers and my face. But I brought the horse back. (Laughter) Then the next spring why she wanted to know where that horse come from, because he was all gray when I brought him in, with frost.

BARBARA: Oh, gosh.

DOROTHEA: Well tell us something about some of the cold winters that you used to have. I can remember some of them, but --- today we don't have those kind of winters at all.

LLOYD: When I was a boy up here, young fellow, I was out of a job for a while and I stayed with my sister Edna and her husband. And we was out choring around, doing things. It was cold, miserable cold. And one fellow come by and he found out --- some of his stock or something, he had to go take care of it. And he rode by there horseback and he stopped to talk a minute and he told Bill he says, "You know, it was 50 below when I

left the house." And Bill says, "Gad dang," he says, "that's too cold to work, let's go in the house boy." Up until that time why --- he was Irish. So we went back in. That was --- I know when we'd feed cattle and get up on the haystack in the sun, and you know you didn't notice it so much. Because the --- you worked and you kept warm. The only thing, I could never keep my hands warm. And on a cold pitch fork handle, every little bit we'd jump off the stack and throw some hay on, light it on fire and run the pitch fork handle back and forth through that and get it warm. Then use it, and then go back up and pitch hay again. We'd ---

DOROTHEA: Did the winds blow as much then, or more?

LLOYD: Well over there I don't remember too hard a winds, do you much on that, when we was there? I can't remember.

MARIAN: Well it seemed to me like we had a lot of wind up there. But I came from where we didn't have a lot of, much wind.

JAMES STEWART: Hi Grandma and Grandpa.

MARIAN: This is our, this is our daughter's youngest son, James.

JAMES: Hi.

MARIAN: The last of our grandchildren to spend the summer with us.

BARBARA: Oh.

LLOYD: Now I suppose the great ones will all come along.

DOROTHEA: That's next. Yeah.

LLOYD: We let the, I don't know, like I say I can't remember too much about too bad a weather, you know. It just seemed natural. I remember I used to wear at least two pair of Levi's to keep warm when I was working out.

DOROTHEA: Did you wear what they used to call the old tin pants?

LLOYD: No.

DOROTHEA: You didn't wear those?

LLOYD: I have worn them in logging camp. I worked the logging camp a little bit one time too for a while. They wore them down there, across the mountains they wore this tin pants as they called them. They were kind of canvas, and they were paraffined until they were so stiff you could stand them up like a stovepipe pretty near. And they wore them in the woods there all right. I've worn them. But when we were fishing up there we got rubber pants. And then we cut them off just above the knee, and then wore hip boots. Because if you couldn't bend your knees good if you had them over, you know. So on the fishing boat we cut them off just above our knees. And then wore a slicker, because you were wet. If you wasn't, you would have been soaked all the time pulling net and one thing and another.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARIAN: I remember the first time we took our baby out.

LLOYD: Yeah.

MARIAN: And I would go with him when he'd feed the cattle. And

LLOYD: Excuse you. (James)

MARIAN: And Joyce was, when I put her in one of these baskets that had a handle on each end.

DOROTHEA: Can't hear you. I'm going to let you talk into it.

LLOYD: Did you catch the first?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, we can just about hear.

MARIAN: When I was going to go out on the sled with him, to feed the cattle, I put her

down in the basket with a hot water bottle. Covered her with several blankets, then raised the handles on the basket and put a cover clear over it. We got out to the haystack; I set her on the sunny side of it and walked around while he was pitching the hay off. And after awhile I thought I had better look at her. She was as red as a beet, almost cooked. That reflection of the sun off of the snow, and out of the wind, and down in that basket. (Laughter) So I spent about an hour cooling her off when I got her back to the house.

DOROTHEA: Kept her warm anyway.

MARIAN: Yes, she didn't get cold. But it never, evidently we must not have had much wind. At least during the winters.

LLOYD: I don't think ---

MARIAN: Because I would go out a lot of times with him on it, and I don't remember it being that --- we never thought of it as being cold. I guess we were just used to it.

LLOYD: When I went after that horse, we had a fellow working there and he was supposed to keep a fire in the basement to keep things warm, and just do the chores around, is all he had to do. And so he was going to save wood, and he didn't do much fire keeping. And we had a whole bin of potatoes there. We had planted a lot of potatoes that year for some reason. Had a whole bin full of them. Every one of them froze clear to the bottom of that bin in the basement. And our car was in there, froze the radiator hose, and busted it on it. And he managed to put his other, he had the one eye, and he managed to put his other eye out while I was gone. And no way to take him to town. Had to wait until the stage got in. And the stage didn't get there when the snow was deep, until they plowed a road to bring the sheep down from up above, or something I think. So then he went out on the stage. Pretty near everything seemed to have gone wrong while I was gone that time.

BARBARA: Time to stay home for sure. Did you used to heat rocks and ---

LLOYD: Flat irons, flat irons.

BARBARA: Flat irons to keep you warm when you went in your cars and buggies and things.

LLOYD: Well, we used to use a, like the time --- while I went down to pick her and the baby up after, down at my sister's place when she come back from over here. And I took a sled to go after her, and I --- blanket, and then we put a lantern under the blanket. Just light a lantern and put it under there to keep you nice and warm that way. In fact, that's what we used in our storage up there in Kodiak was a little --- place I had fixed for food, I just keep a coal oil lantern in there for just enough heat to keep it from freezing off.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, they put out a lot of heat. So that would help. MARIAN: Yeah, I went home, Joyce was born the ---

LLOYD: Ninth.

MARIAN: Ninth of December. I always say the 8th. The 9th of December. I stayed with his sister until Christmas day, then he took me home. We were snowed in. We went home with a sled that day. Then we were snowed in until the middle of March when they opened the road for these sheep, before I could bring her back to Burns for her first check-up.

DOROTHEA: When you say you were snowed in, how did you get your food? What kind of food did you eat, and ---

LLOYD: We had it.

MARIAN: You bought supplies in the fall, hoping that you had enough to last all winter. You bought, we had, our main fruit was dried fruit. We always had a case of dried apples, dried peaches, dried prunes, raisins, and flour, and sugar. You had your own milk and

your own butter. Canned vegetables, but you, mostly you had enough to last all winter because we never came to town in the winter.

BARBARA: Not like running to the market every week for what you want now.

MARIAN: Every day.

BARBARA: Every day.

LLOYD: When we were in Kodiak, we bought our supplies for a year at a time, when I was in the guiding business there.

BARBARA: Takes real planning doesn't it, to figure out exactly what you think you might need for a whole winter.

MARIAN: Yes, it does.

LLOYD: We couldn't get our --- we had to keep, get our fresh stuff from, sent out from town. But --- and things like that, but meat, if we didn't go get a bear or something for meat.

DOROTHEA: Did you do a lot of your own baking and this kind of thing? I mean like your breads?

LLOYD: All of it.

MARIAN: All of your own baking.

DOROTHEA: You did your own, all your own baking.

MARIAN: Yes, there was, unless you traded cakes or something with the neighbor, why you ate your own baking all ---

LLOYD: What was the Easter deal, what did they call that when they brought those?

MARIAN: In Alaska?

LLOYD: Yeah.

MARIAN: On the, Russian Orthodox Easter, they bake a regular Easter bread, kulich that

they --- they bake a lot of it, because they trade with everyone. You never end up with any of your own bread at the end of the day on Easter Sunday. Trade --- but out at Drewsey, we did all of our own baking, yes.

DOROTHEA: My daughter-in-law does a lot of her own baking. And my son says, "You can't buy bread up town like you can homemade bread, because it doesn't have any flavor to it." So ---

MARIAN: That's right.

DOROTHEA: I imagine, after eating all your own home baking for so long, it's hard to kind of get used to this bread.

LLOYD: She never did.

MARIAN: No, I still don't like the taste of it as well. But it's so much more convenient.

DOROTHEA: Right, that's what I've found. I used to do a lot of baking too. I'm going to pause for a moment while we turn our tape over, and get on the other side. So we'll kind of cease our conversation for a minute or two.

SIDE B

MARIAN: ... was a very good teacher, and she was very handy, the first year we were married. And she taught me to bake bread.

BARBARA: You didn't have to do it as you were growing up, you didn't bake bread at home?

MARIAN: No.

BARBARA: Your mother didn't teach you?

MARIAN: No. She, my mother worked, and the hours she worked she didn't have the time to teach us kids at that time. And we did live closer to towns most of the time. We

did eat more stuff probably from the stores than the farmers did at the same time.

LLOYD: I don't think we had anything from stores when I was a boy, except sugar and flour, coffee. About the size of it. You raised your meat, and your garden and everything at home.

DOROTHEA: Did they have just coffee beans when you were younger, or were they, did you have ground coffee?

LLOYD: Both, you could get both.

DOROTHEA: You could get both.

LLOYD: We used to buy the beans, then they had the little grinders in the stores and you just get a pound of beans and you dump them in that, and put the sack underneath, and that was ---

BARBARA: Did your mother make your clothes for you, or did you get store bought clothes?

LLOYD: No, I think she did for the older kids.

MARIAN: Probably the girls.

LLOYD: Yeah, for the girls, I'm sure. But no, I don't think she ever made anything that I ever wore, that I know of.

BARBARA: You had your work shirt, and your good shirt, and that's about it.

LLOYD: That's about --- well, when I bought my first clothes, I was in the eighth grade. And I had enough, they had me still wearing knee britches, the long socks.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

LLOYD: Oh, I hated those things.

BARBARA: I think most boys did.

LLOYD: They was coming out with the younger kids wearing --- I went to town with the

first money I earned, and I bought myself a pair of long pants. My mom didn't like it very good. Said they didn't look right on ---

BARBARA: Oh dear.

LLOYD: Growing up too much, you know. (Laughter) No, but I didn't like those short pants. In fact, in eighth grade I was in, the boys that went there all wore longer pants. And I was the only one in the bunch that had those knee britches yet.

BARBARA: Did they make fun of you in your short pants?

LLOYD: Well nobody ever, not that I remember of much. But I didn't like them. Of course I got to earning a little money then, and I --- very little, but still it went a little ways too. I was talking here awhile back about, you know, that things cost so blame much. But you know, when I broke horses for the PLS Company, I got sixty dollars a month and my board. A pair of Levi's cost me two and a half, which was more than a day's wages.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Go down and buy them now, its more than a day's wages too.

LLOYD: Not the wages they get nowadays.

DOROTHEA: Well ---

LLOYD: One hour, most of them, a lot of them will buy them. I know there is people, don't everybody make that kind of wages. But there is a lot of them that do.

DOROTHEA: I think that depends on the kind of job you've got too.

LLOYD: Yeah, sure it does. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: But still ---

LLOYD: It wouldn't be a ranch job.

DOROTHEA: No, no. Ranchers can't afford to pay that kind of wages. But yes, I agree, my son is one of those that makes big money during the day. He gripes if he doesn't make three hundred and seventy bucks a day. So, I agree.

LLOYD: That will buy him quite a few pair of pants. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

LLOYD: No.

DOROTHEA: I can remember when the pants still cost two and a half and five dollars for a pair of Levi's.

LLOYD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Now boy, they've got a price and a half on them.

LLOYD: Yeah, oh yeah, I know.

MARIAN: The first work shirt I bought for him after we were married, I thought he needed a new one; I paid forty-nine cents for it at J. C. Penney's. Because that first year we were married, everything we spent was counted in pennies. Our income was in pennies practically.

LLOYD: Yeah, we had crop failures along with the depression.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about the depression, what was it like, and how did it affect you?

LLOYD: When I was up in this country, when it really hit. Then the crash after '29, I was up here. But my folks and my brother had bought a grain ranch out from Lebanon, Oregon. And they wanted me to come down and help there. That's when I rode down horseback that time. Took some horses with me, so we'd have some for workhorses and stuff. And that, as far as the depression, we had crop failures, and we had a few cows to get some milk to sell for change. Well all --- oats all turned to cheat, the rest of it drowned out, winter killed. And trying to feed these cows on cheat hay, and produce any milk, we only had six head I think. Got down to where we tried to divide that milk check three ways. It was forty cents a hundred pounds for milk, if it was four percent. And the check

got down to where it was a dollar and a half every two weeks. We got fifty cents a piece out of it. So we bought a little bit of sugar once in awhile. Once in awhile a gallon of gas. I remember we went to town one time and bought two gallons of gas. They had a price war on, and it was eleven cents a gallon. So we bought two gallon that day.

I had saved up a few Indian head pennies that I was going to keep. Well it got low enough I spent them, all but thirteen of them. Then I had them stole from me later, so I didn't get away with them either. So I'd probably have lost all of them if I had kept them. Anyway, that winter we didn't take in any money. In the fall Marian and I even picked cherries to get a hold of a little money. Maraschino cherries that they picked when they are white, and light colored. I had, when we got married, I give the preacher a little money, and I had a few groceries. We went home with five dollars cash in our pocket. And that's the way we started our married life. (Laughter) She was ---

BARBARA: That's scary, isn't it?

LLOYD: She was a brave woman, I'll tell you.

MARIAN: I just didn't know any better.

LLOYD: We sweat that out for a year. And then Ralph Chambers up here sent word down that he sure had a job if we wanted to come up. Boy, I'll tell you, we started packing. I had enough of that. I didn't mind it being out when I was single, but I didn't like it after we got married.

BARBARA: Had a little responsibility then. So you were married about a year then before you came back to Harney County?

LLOYD: Yeah. Must have been, just about a year. Yeah.

MARIAN: Just a year.

BARBARA: And how old were you Marian when you got married?

MARIAN: Nineteen.

BARBARA: Nineteen.

LLOYD: Old enough to know better. (Laughter)

MARIAN: Yes. My mother-in-law immediately called the school clerk to say that there was one more on the school role to collect tax money for when we got married.

BARBARA: Oh.

MARIAN: Because I moved into that district.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

LLOYD: Yeah, we just stayed there a year. We cut wood, my brother and I. We had a federal land bank loan against the ranch there. And we had over two hundred acres. We got that paid down to eighteen hundred dollars, and we couldn't pay the interest on it even. And we cut wood, besides doing our chores and other work in the winter. And my brother and I would go up on top of that hill; there was a butte on the place. And way up on top of that we had a little forty-acre patch that had timber on it. Go up there and cut wood all winter, different days that we could. We managed to cut out eighty cord of wood. But we had to sell it; we had to get it down to the road. Well it took a four-horse team to get a wagon up there. Quite a little while to get there, but we come off pretty quick. (Laughter) We --- she walked up with it a few times by the wagon. We'd get off and walk going up. But she'd come up there sometimes with us. Anyway that eighty cord brought it down there for two and a half a cord. And the folks, I don't know why, but they turned practically all of that back to the land bank, which was just wasted. I mean, we couldn't make the interest there on things. Well anyway, I took twenty dollars of that. I said that's what I'm going to have. And that's what I had when I started planning to get married, was twenty dollars. And by the time we got married, why it was down to five.

DOROTHEA: That's pretty good though, you know, really. To make that twenty dollars last that long.

MARIAN: Yes.

LLOYD: Well --- that only was a few months.

MARIAN: ... wedding ring out of it.

LLOYD: That five dollars, we never had more than five dollars until we left that country. The first thirty-dollar check we got up here on the ranch, we felt pretty independent.

DOROTHEA: I bet, I bet.

LLOYD: Yeah. Bought a suitcase, one thing we needed a suitcase for stuff, and it was a leather suitcase. I finally threw that away just, well I guess just before we come up here, wasn't it?

MARIAN: I think so.

LLOYD: It just looked shabby, it wasn't worn out, it just looked shabby. But you couldn't -- I think we paid six dollars for that suitcase.

DOROTHEA: That was an expensive suitcase.

LLOYD: Yeah, uh huh. It was a leather suitcase. That year on the ranch though, down there during the depression we had, we raised some wheat, soft wheat of course. But we took it to the mill and had it ground into flour. And that was our flour.

DOROTHEA: So you had your own flour even.

LLOYD: Yeah. So we didn't, like I said, all we needed to buy was a little sugar, coffee. And if we wanted to go to town, well the folks liked to go into church too, so it took a little bit of gas money.

MARIAN: We had chickens.

LLOYD: We had some chickens.

MARIAN: My mother had canned a lot for us, because while she did her canning all summer and fall, she would can so many jars for me. We were married in October, so --- So we had canned, and our own meat, they butchered.

LLOYD: Pig meat.

MARIAN: So actually people on the farm, during those depression years, didn't suffer like the people in the cities did that relied wholly on their cash to do most of their living. We never went hungry, or cold.

LLOYD: No, all my life I never missed a meal. I put off some of them, but I never missed one. (Laughter)

Oh that flour, there was a couple moved in there that was I guess harder up than we were, pretty close to us there. And they was pretty low on something to eat, and so they wanted to trade that loveseat there, it was an antique at that time. And they traded that and two chairs to us for two sacks of flour, or three sacks, I forgot, or four.

MARIAN: Three or four, I think.

LLOYD: Three or four sacks of flour. I rebuilt it since then.

DOROTHEA: It's pretty. Really pretty.

MARIAN: But it was an antique over, at fifty-six years ago.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

LLOYD: Had, what do you call it, had tapestry on it. It was the old fringe, it was tapestry. But the springs was broke down on it. Nobody but me would have thought there was any hope for it I guess. My son and I refinished it, and then the last thing I done in my upholstery shop was to fix that so we'd have it.

DOROTHEA: Where did you have your upholstery shop at in the valley?

LLOYD: Albany, yeah Albany.

DOROTHEA: Albany.

LLOYD: Uh huh.

BARBARA: When did you decide to retire and move back to Harney County? How long have you lived here now?

LLOYD: Oh we come back ---

MARIAN: Eight years.

LLOYD: Eight years now.

MARIAN: We came back in '81.

BARBARA: '81.

LLOYD: I started to take my retirement when I was 64, but I never managed to quit work until we moved up here.

MARIAN: Just a little past 70.

LLOYD: I could make so much, you know, extra.

BARBARA: So you just decided to keep doing a little bit, and a little bit.

LLOYD: Well ---

BARBARA: Kept putting it off.

MARIAN: He liked working in the bowling alley, and that's where he was working.

LLOYD: Funny thing, they ---

MARIAN: Because he liked to bowl.

LLOYD: Started in there, they asked me when I, when I decided I was going to retire, why he said, "Well fine." Then we sold, we had a little store down there too in Albany, a starve type. Anyway, we finally got rid of that. And so the fellow that run the bowling alley, well he said, "How would you like to come out and work about, oh three hours a day, maybe three days a week?" Well that sounded like a good idea to me. Well it wasn't any length

of time at all until I was working eight hours a day, seven days a week, or six or seven days a week. Six days anyway. I kept that up until we left. Another outfit bought the place, and I told him I was going to leave. And he said, "Well I want you to work awhile longer." No, we've sold our place now, moved into our motor home. He said, "Well move it out here." He says, "You can park it right here and be handy." But we took off.

BARBARA: So what do you do with your time since you've been back in Harney County?

LLOYD: Oh, fish.

BARBARA: You like to fish.

LLOYD: I did go hunting, but I've got so stove up, I can't anymore. And I do macramé, and latch hook, leather carving, just anything for ---

MARIAN: This is his latest project in macramé.

BARBARA: That's nice.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever do any rawhide work?

LLOYD: Yes, a long time ago. I made a romal, reins and romals and things out of rawhide.

DOROTHEA: Did you have to have a special kind of hide that you used?

LLOYD: Just cowhide.

DOROTHEA: You just used cowhide.

LLOYD: You take it and soak it and get the hair off, and soak it again. And then when it dries, start a string you know, just in a circle. Get as long a string as you could out of it. Then you could make ropes or, I never did braid a rope, I didn't. But I made reins. And there was, I'd do something again, but there is one thing I can't remember how to do. And I've tried it several times, and --- where your splice comes, or well like you know you've got to put an eye in the end of that for your popper and stuff on the romal. I cannot

remember how to tie that Turk's- head on that, to hide that braid back. And I've tried several times, but I can't --- And I give my, I had a book on that kind of stuff too, and I give it to somebody. I think maybe to Jay.

MARIAN: To Jay, probably.

LLOYD: I think maybe. It was a big book on knots and stuff. In fact when I was in the fire department, they had me make a board of knots. It was on a 4 x 8 plyboard. And all these different kinds of knots, and put them up on there.

DOROTHEA: Well it looks like you still keep yourself plenty busy. And it's --- you've kept yourself traveling, and busy doing all kinds of different jobs. And kept an interesting and active life. LLOYD: Well I think we ---

DOROTHEA: Let's get some of this on the video. This is some of the work that he does. We'll get it down on video, so you'll know what we're talking about.

LLOYD: I made several macramé purses. In fact I made one for them to give away at the seniors for their, on their raffle. And I think I made two for her. One for her sister.

MARIAN: You tooled a billfold for them to give away at the Senior Center.

LLOYD: Yeah. Billfolds, leather carved, leather carving. Yeah. BARBARA: You take part in the Senior Center's activities?

LLOYD: Oh, we go there to eat. And that's, then like the things like that, I try to make something for their raffle, and all.

DOROTHEA: Marian helps serve there every once in awhile.

LLOYD: Yeah.

MARIAN: Yes.

LLOYD: Well every twice in awhile. Because two places she goes, both of them serve, so ---

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to say, a couple times probably. LLOYD: Yeah.

MARIAN: I serve with the church group, as well as the lodge.

DOROTHEA: So, that's a good place to go though. I think that they do serve good meals.

LLOYD: Oh, they do.

MARIAN: You get acquainted with a lot of people that you wouldn't meet when you move into a place like this.

DOROTHEA: Right, right.

MARIAN: Where we do know some people, but it's very limited unless you join some groups and go out.

BARBARA: Well you have to make an effort to get out and about and meet people. If you just sit at home, you're not going to get acquainted at all.

MARIAN: And we don't sit at home. We don't sit at home.

BARBARA: Well that's good. Helps keep you young too, when you're out and about.

LLOYD: That's --- I still try to bowl.

DOROTHEA: Well I was going to ask you if you still bowled.

LLOYD: No, I roll the ball.

DOROTHEA: You roll the ball.

LLOYD: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Well I think that's what a lot of us do. I've kind of given up on doing a real good score.

LLOYD: You know I didn't really get started bowling until I was sixty years old. And I got up, finally one year, up to 165 average. And I thought that was pretty good.

DOROTHEA: That is good.

LLOYD: Now I have trouble averaging oh, 120, maybe 100. A lot of times I get so bad, well if I flinch when I go to throw the ball, I got my one leg bothering me pretty good. And sometimes I'll go in the gutter, and no telling where it will go, you know.

DOROTHEA: Next alley even, huh?

LLOYD: Yeah, almost, yeah. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That's about where mine go.

MARIAN: The Seniors bowl twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons.

DOROTHEA: Oh, do they bowl twice?

LLOYD: Uh huh.

MARIAN: And it's not, they don't any of them go for breaking any scores, they just go for the exercise, and have a good time.

BARBARA: That's nice.

LLOYD: Kind of fun to get out. Well I'll try it again tomorrow, but I don't know. I'm kind of stove up today. Take a handful of medicine; I'll make it maybe.

DOROTHEA: The change of weather, this change of weather came and it's stove us all up.

LLOYD: Well I had to have one knee put in. And now I've got a hip that I guess that's going to happen too. But that's a result of broncs.

BARBARA: One too many horses broke, huh? Broke you.

LLOYD: That was kind of an odd deal. I was --- kind of a wild one, and somebody snubbing the other horse up for me until I got on. He didn't do a good job. He had too much slack. Just as I got my foot, just almost in the stirrup, he lunged into me and threw that knee out of place. Well then it's bothered me off and on all my life since then. Finally I had to get something done. Well it doesn't hurt anymore, but that's as far as it will bend

too. Now if my other leg didn't hurt anymore than that one, I'd be fishing and hunting and everything else.

BARBARA: Did you have any other kind of mishaps in the years that you were breaking horses?

LLOYD: Well not ---

BARBARA: Broken bones, or ---

LLOYD: No, not really. Got my ribs broke, yeah. I had one horse that I, kind of found out he was an outlaw. But I was going to ride him down there at the Kimball Flat Ranch. And the other fellow there he said, "Let's ride them outside." Well I'd never been on this horse, but --- And I said, "Well this saddle I've got here now is kind of a wreck." It was kind of broken in the fork. And there was a Texas buckaroo there, he said, "Here, take my saddle." Well it never entered my head that he was so much longer legged than I was. And I swung into that saddle, and I could just barely reach the stirrups. Well that horse, Jack Miller, that's one of the Millers out there, he threw his hat under the horse and he went about ten feet in the air and swapped ends and took off down there. And I was going off, and I tried to double him under me, and when I did, he stumbled and I went right on off over his head. And he whirled and jumped on me. And I was rolling, or he'd have killed me. But --- and he broke four ribs, two on each side here. Just caved them in for me, and laid me up for awhile. That's the only real mishap I had with horses.

DOROTHEA: That's about enough though. Ribs can really lay you up. They are so sore.

LLOYD: They are sore; I'm a telling you. And to keep from losing my job, I was back out before very many days, shaking a road plow. They plowed a road around the contour ditch, out across the field there at the company ranch. And I was handling the plow. Boy, I'll tell you, that hurt. (Laughter) Had to do it. Like that, said that old fellow that used to

be one of the buckaroo bosses out here, Thompson. I didn't know him, but I heard of him. He was riding a bronc and he fell with him in the rocks and broke his leg. Broke the --- not the horse, his leg. And he stayed with the romal, the mecate until he finally got him pulled around, got himself --- I don't know how he done it, but he got back on and rode him back to the ranch. And they asked him how in the world he did that. He said, "By golly, I had to," he said. And that was about true. Otherwise he would have laid there and died if he didn't, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, you know you get a lot of strength when you have to do something, that you don't ordinarily have.

LLOYD: I was, when I had that bunch of cattle to ride line out there at the Lamb Ranch, I was breaking horses. I was coming off over hill there one day, and down a bunch of shale. And a fellow down below in an old Model-A roadster, or Model-T roadster I mean, and he said, motioned me on down, down there, and he was selling insurance, accident insurance. Well he convinced me my job was, job I should have accident insurance. So I said yeah, believe I was right, so I took some. Give him a check. Two weeks later when he was supposed to bring it back, why he met me again and he handed me back my money. He said, "They think you're a bad hazard. They won't insure you." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Is there anything about your life that you would have changed if you were to redo it?

LLOYD: I don't know.

DOROTHEA: You like your life as it was?

LLOYD: I think as far as I was concerned, I think --- only thing if I could have found her sooner. (Laughter)

BARBARA: That's a nice thing to say.

DOROTHEA: How many years have you been married?

LLOYD: It will be 56 in October.

DOROTHEA: Well that's a great thing to say. And a good long time together.

LLOYD: I don't know how she did it. (Laughter) She has been working on me ever since.

MARIAN: Haven't reformed him yet.

BARBARA: Did you ever do any rodeoing?

LLOYD: Well I tried it a little bit. But after I got that leg hurt, I kept losing stirrups so wasn't any hope in it. We come, when we rode down that time, we come, the rodeo was on here in Burns, so we come over here intending to just exhibition ride. We wasn't going to enter any contest. But we went to sign up, and boy the line they had signed up, it was all the buckaroos in the country I guess, for that exhibition ride. They paid two and a half a mount. Didn't look like we might get one mount maybe, after we paid the ten dollar entrance fee. So we said phooey on that, we took off and went on. But that's the only time I ever tried it here at Burns. We had small ones, you know, I don't know what you called them. Little ones that you put on, different ones around, different places. And I would have if I hadn't got my leg jammed; I think I would have followed that probably. But I could never keep a stirrup good with that leg afterwards.

When we first moved up here, working out there at the Larsen place then, why he had a little colt there he kept dinging about wanting to get broke. I said, "Well let's break him." He said, "Alright, I'll help you saddle him." So she come out, she was going to take a picture. She'd never even got any ideas of bronc riding or anything. She got up on top of the corral there with her camera. I rode him until he quit bucking, and rode him around there and got him trotting around pretty good. I said, "Did you get your picture honey?"

"Oh, I forgot," she said. (Laughter)

MARIAN: I was kind of worried about him staying on the horse.

DOROTHEA: Got so excited that you forgot to take the picture. It does bother you a little bit, I've watched my daughter do this. And you keep thinking, oh, are they going to fall off, are they going to fall off, you know.

MARIAN: Yes.

LLOYD: I had saddles bucked off with me a couple of times. When we went back down to the valley, a little after, well right at the first part of the war there, wasn't it when I went down to Adams? Hired a fellow down there, he was getting horses from this country taking them down there. And he wanted somebody to ride them. So I went down there on my day off, I was working at the fire department for a while for the Navy, or Army down there. I had every other day off. So I went down to see him, and got a job. So I rode, and broke and rode these broncs there one day, and back to the fire department the next day. Well he just bucked often enough just to keep me stiff and sore.

But one of them bucked a saddle off with me there. I, when we were there at the fire department, another fellow and I got to making saddles. And I thought I was going to make me a dandy, so

--- And then a fellow ordered it right after I got it started. So I bought some real heavy leather and laid it. And I was going to make a dandy. Well it was too heavy, it was a bum idea. And it didn't cinch up too good, because it was stiff leather. I put that on this bronc and I took him out into a pasture there, and I rode him all right that time until he fell down with me. And then, so the next time I was going to ride him why some of her friends were there too, and I got on him and was going to go get the cows in or something, going to do some --- I don't know, I was going to get something. And anyway, he decided to buck

with me there, right around a little spot in front of the barn. And finally bucked the saddle off, right over his head with me. Saddle didn't cinch up good enough on there, it was so stiff yet. DOROTHEA: Well that's something that you don't want, is a heavy thick hide on a saddle.

LLOYD: No. But this fellow ordered it, and then I got to thinking, well I'd like to have that saddle myself. But then he come back again and he give me; give us a bad time so we agreed to let him have it. But, so naturally I'd done something that I never did riding broncs, I'd had my reins fastened together. Well when that went off, when I went off over his head with it, the reins caught on the horn, back underneath, you know. And he drug that saddle down the road and kicked it through two fences. (Laughter) And the fellow came back the next morning and he was going to get his saddle out at, where I was working. And I said, "Well," I said, " maybe." He said, "What do you mean, maybe? Don't you have it done?" I said, "Oh, it's done alright. Practically pretty near finished." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: In more ways than one.

LLOYD: Well it wasn't, it was just skinned up mostly. Just skinned places on it. And he says, well he says, he said, "What will you take for it?" I said, "Well, I said eighty dollars." And that was, the tree cost me fifty, and the leather another twenty.

DOROTHEA: You didn't make much on that saddle.

LLOYD: Didn't make any on it. But I didn't lose anything, anyway. DOROTHEA: You can't even look at a bit now for eighty dollars.

LLOYD: Oh, boy. I sold a hand carved saddle we did, my partner, a fellow and I was making them down there for a hundred and sixty dollars, hand carved. That thing would be worth seven or eight hundred dollars now.

DOROTHEA: You bet. Last saddle my daughter bought was over a thousand dollars. And it didn't have all that much carving on it. LLOYD: I ought to, if I just had a place, I'd attempt it a time or two to make another saddle. Of course I don't have any of my patterns or anything anymore for --- I'd have to figure all that out. So I don't know, it just wouldn't hardly be worth trying.

DOROTHEA: Saddle makers are hard to find anymore, too. You know you can't get one that knows what they're making. Sometimes you'll find a real good saddle maker, and he'll quit, retire, or pass away.

MARIAN: Not many of the young people that want to learn those things.

DOROTHEA: No, they don't want to do saddles.

LLOYD: Well when we was working in the fire department there, down at the Army base, anything we wanted to do for a hobby as long as we was ready to hit the truck, after we had our work done. There was this other fellow, and he had some horses he was renting to the Army boys there, just to ride. And his saddle was pretty ... brought in there and started to fix them. Then we decided, why shucks, that's not so bad, why don't we make some. So we bought our tree. We didn't make the trees. Bought a Hamley tree usually, from over there. Bought the tree and then the rings and stuff, and then made them. And we sold several of them. We got to where we was turning out a saddle pretty near every week there between the two of us, on our days off there, when we had our time off.

DOROTHEA: Well it's sure good to find somebody you know that makes a good saddle. Because they are hard to find and far between anymore.

LLOYD: Show her that bowling bag I made. There is some carving on that like I do.

BARBARA: You mentioned sheep a couple times; did you ever work with sheep yourself? Or just have them around ---

LLOYD: Did you ever know a buckaroo that wanted anything to do with sheep?

BARBARA: No, but I thought I would ask anyway.

LLOYD: I'll have to admit; on the ranch down there in the valley we had a few head of sheep there. I didn't like them, but we had them.

DOROTHEA: That and pigs. Not very many buckaroos liked pigs either.

LLOYD: No, we had pigs there too.

BARBARA: Oh, that's pretty. (Bowling bag)

DOROTHEA: Oh, that is pretty.

MARIAN: And then he put my initials on that side.

BARBARA: Yes. That's a dandy one. You don't have to worry about that one wearing out, will you?

MARIAN: No. It's twenty more pounds to carry around.

BARBARA: It keeps you in shape ---

LLOYD: It's too heavy; she never really liked it because it was too heavy.

BARBARA: --- to carry your bag and ball around.

MARIAN: It wasn't that I didn't like it; it was just heavy to carry.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. It's a nice bag. Looks like just about hold everything.

MARIAN: Yeah, there is a place for the shoes underneath.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

LLOYD: Oh, I made lots of holsters and billfolds, and all that kind of stuff, purses.

DOROTHEA: You like to work with the leather.

LLOYD: I do, but it's --- that toolings got so, I don't know, it's hard on my eyes.

MARIAN: He made a belt this spring for his nephew, Dean Bennett.

DOROTHEA: Now then we're talking about the Bennetts. You said you were related to

them. Can you tell us how you are related? Edna George, is she ---

MARIAN: She's the mother ---

DOROTHEA: --- mother to ---

MARIAN: --- Genevieve Bennett. Doris Robinson ---

LLOYD: See Genevieve married Frank Bennett, and that's --- but it is the Bennetts she is asking about now.

MARIAN: Yeah, but she wanted to know how they were related.

LLOYD: Yeah.

MARIAN: So they're his nieces. Genevieve is older than he is. So ---

DOROTHEA: Doris Robinson and who?

MARIAN: And the third one is Lois.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's the one that is just here.

MARIAN: Yeah, she's here. Lois Leonard.

LLOYD: She just come here just a while back.

BARBARA: Genevieve, your sister?

DOROTHEA: No, niece.

LLOYD: Niece.

BARBARA: Genevieve, your niece, married Frank Bennett.

LLOYD: Yeah. Bennett, yes.

BARBARA: Okay.

LLOYD: That's how come the Bennetts.

MARIAN: Of course then she had two children, Jerry and Dean, both here in town.

LLOYD: Jerry runs that lot down there --- Dean is not in too good a shape. He's had ---

MARIAN: He's retired, he can't work at all.

DOROTHEA: And he's got diabetes, doesn't he?

LLOYD: Yeah, uh huh.

MARIAN: He's just almost blind.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he is? Clint worked with him when he was working out on this --- what kind of a power line was it?

MARIAN: When they put that big power line through.

LLOYD: Yeah, he used to drive grader or something, make roads on it and stuff, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Right after that is when he had one of his heart attacks I think.

MARIAN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And they found out he had diabetes at that time I think. Is Harry George some relation to them? He's not?

LLOYD: No, what was ---

MARIAN: You'd have to ask Genevieve, they had some relation down there.

LLOYD: Well I was just, I know, I was just trying to think of Bill's brother's name. Oh, he had a homestead back there, right just below the one we had.

MARIAN: I know it. I can't remember.

LLOYD: I can't remember things, it's stupid. We started one time, we was going to go into the ranch business in this country, her and I. We started out, started to buy the Bill George's place. And our amount of stock was I think two head of horses, or three head of horses, and a milk cow.

MARIAN: Uh huh.

LLOYD: I think that was the amount of stock we had at that time. And they passed that Taylor Grazing Law. Well you could see the handwriting on the wall right there. If you didn't have the stock, so we got out of it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it's still that way.

MARIAN: That was the thing that really decided us to leave. Because we couldn't get any --- we couldn't go ahead and buy the ranch and stock.

LLOYD: There wasn't any future in being a foreman on a ranch at that time either. So --- that was all.

BARBARA: When was it that you left then? What year was it?

LLOYD: '38, wasn't it?

BARBARA: '38.

LLOYD: I think '38.

BARBARA: So you were here about five years then?

LLOYD: Yeah.

BARBARA: After you were married?

LLOYD: Yes.

MARIAN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Well our tape is coming ---

LLOYD: Full.

DOROTHEA: --- close, and we've enjoyed this visit with you. Is there anything else that you can think of that you would like to add to this?

LLOYD: One, well I don't know, one incident on that trip down to the valley and back, when they went with the wagon. We come back up the Columbia on a boat, steered the wagon and horses and everything. Well when we was in Portland, just before we left, my mother had my dad build a box on the side of the wagon to put flowers in. She was going to bring some flowers back to the homestead. Well when we were in Portland the trolley come by, and those were still bunchgrass horses. And they run away right down through

town, and they turned the corner close enough that they peeled that box right off of the side with the, off of one of the poles there on the corner. And there went her flower box.

BARBARA: Oh, no.

DOROTHEA: She left her flowers in the valley.

LLOYD: We went, it come up the river to The Dalles, and then we come across with the wagon there again.

BARBARA: How long did it take you to come from the Columbia River down here to ---

LLOYD: I have no idea at all, I was just a --- like I say, I think I was five years old, maybe six. I can't remember.

MARIAN: You don't know if Edna went with you, because Genevieve said she remembers that trip. But she was ---

LLOYD: She remembers about it, she wasn't with us.

MARIAN: She was mentioning it the other day.

LLOYD: Mabel and Tex, Mabel and Tex --- Ernest, Tex, always called him Tex, Ernest. And I think Vidah, but that's all. I'm pretty sure about that. Genevieve wasn't along, because Edna wasn't, I know. She probably heard so much about it, it kind of feels ---

BARBARA: Seems like she went.

LLOYD: Yeah. That's the way some things do, you know too.

BARBARA: You hear the story often enough, you think you were right there in the midst of it.

LLOYD: In fact she knows a little bit more about my folks than I did, I think.

MARIAN: Well of course ---

LLOYD: Edna, the oldest ---

MARIAN: Her mother and she stayed here with her family. Because Edna George didn't

--- she only passed away ---

DOROTHEA: Not too many years ago.

LLOYD: Ten, eleven years ago.

MARIAN: Not too many. She was up here in the nursing home a long time.

DOROTHEA: Because I know they have a history on her. Now see, I could have looked it up there. But I didn't realize that was how you were related.

BARBARA: You say your family, you think, came from Nebraska?

LLOYD: Well my father, that was what I understood, that he come across, but he walked. He followed a train across. And he talked about the plains though. And like she was telling a while ago, there wasn't any plains in that trip much, I wouldn't think from Nebraska. And ---

MARIAN: Of course Nebraska is that, if you're walking it seems like you'd walked across a lot of plains I'm sure.

LLOYD: Well at that time too, how much of that was settled?

MARIAN: Not much.

LLOYD: 1880. Well I don't know, earlier than that he come down to ---

MARIAN: I think your parents were married though down at Dayton.

LLOYD: I think so too.

MARIAN: Because your mother's sisters ---

LLOYD: Was all there, uh huh.

MARIAN: --- down there.

LLOYD: Well dad's brothers come down ---

MARIAN: Yes, he has a brother at Mill City.

LLOYD: --- but I don't think they come at the same time, from what I could gather.

MARIAN: Yeah, they probably ---

LLOYD: I had a muzzle-loading shotgun that my dad carried when he crossed there that belonged to my grandfather. And I gave that to my son, he's got it now. So it will stay in the family. When we were in the shop in Albany, before we went to Alaska, a fellow came in and saw that and offered me a hundred dollars for it then. I wouldn't sell it just because of the keepsake. But that was the first gun I had to hunt with too, was that old muzzleloader.

BARBARA: You don't know why they came west, other than just to come west.

LLOYD: Just coming west.

BARBARA: Everybody else seemed to be doing it, so it was a good idea.

LLOYD: They landed down at Dayton, or Amity, and they stayed down there. I hear him talk about Yamhill a lot when he was, that's the only --- things that happened at Yamhill. Then they come up here. I guess they, sometime in the '80's.

BARBARA: From the nice lush green Willamette Valley, to Harney County. It seemed strange that they would come back this way, doesn't it?

LLOYD: Yeah.

MARIAN: I believe probably there wasn't anymore homestead land down there. And they wanted a homestead.

BARBARA: I see. Uh huh.

MARIAN: That's ---

LLOYD: Well, they didn't pick a very good homestead either, if you ask me. (Laughter) That's going back to sagebrush, that place now.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARIAN: Well on the hill, where that road comes straight up to the Wolf Creek School ---

LLOYD: Yeah.

MARIAN: --- there is some pens and corrals and things there. It's farmed, but the side where your house was; there isn't anything there.

LLOYD: Nothing there no, where the house was. Of course the road is in a little different place than it used to be.

MARIAN: Yeah. The house they first lived in was still standing on the Mike Acton place, until just a few years ago. Genevieve told me that.

LLOYD: I didn't know it, and I worked there on the Acton place too. Of course, like she said, her mother knew all this stuff, and she'd tell Genevieve.

MARIAN: When they lived out there, and they stayed out there until the girls --- didn't come to town until they were married. Came in and started to working.

LLOYD: My two older sisters were both married before I was born. So Genevieve was just part of a year older than I am, my niece.

DOROTHEA: Now you say you were the youngest?

LLOYD: Uh huh.

BARBARA: So what kind of an age range are you talking about? How much older was your older sister?

LLOYD: Edna was twenty, about twenty-one years, or something like that, older than me. And Sadie was two years younger than her. And from that on, I don't know just ---

MARIAN: You were eight years younger than your youngest sister, weren't you?

LLOYD: I was ten years younger than Tex, and eight years younger than Mabel.

MARIAN: Yeah.

LLOYD: But I don't know about the others, about Vidah.

MARIAN: Yes, but she was older.

BARBARA: That's really a long period for a family of children to be born, twenty-one years.

LLOYD: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: That's never getting too old to have a family, and that's the way we used to do it, I think too though. You know, I mean ---

LLOYD: They used to raise their help.

DOROTHEA: They did.

BARBARA: I think that's why they had such large families. They needed the help on the ranch, or the farm, or whatever, to take care of it in order to survive, you had to have them.

MARIAN: Yes, you didn't hire help.

DOROTHEA: And all the kids worked too.

LLOYD: Yeah.

MARIAN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: You know, you didn't shirk; you all had your chores to do.

LLOYD: Oh, yeah.

MARIAN: You bet.

DOROTHEA: So --- Well our light is blinking again, so that means about the end of the tape. So we would like to thank you for this time that you have given us, and the information. It's been very interesting. And we've found out, and maybe through this we can think of somebody else that we can do some interviews with. So we thank you again. And now we will get you on some videotape. Thanks a lot.

(END OF TAPE)

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