

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #228 - Side A

Subject: Ethel Wickizer - 1988 Pioneer Day Queen Mother

Place: Wickizer Home - Hines, Oregon

Date: May 20, 1988

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Hi, this is Pauline Braymen, and I'm interviewing Ethel Wickizer at her home in Hines on May 20th, 1988. She will be the Harney County Pioneer Association Queen Mother for this years Pioneer's Celebration in June. Well Ethel, the first thing I guess we need to know is where you were born and when.

ETHEL OARD HARRIS WICKIZER: I was born in 1906 at the Lamb Ranch, southwest of Drewsey.

PAULINE: And who were your parents?

ETHEL: Charles and Bertha Oard.

PAULINE: Were you the oldest in your family, or ---

ETHEL: I was the second oldest.

PAULINE: You were the second oldest.

ETHEL: I have an older sister.

PAULINE: Is she still living?

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: What is her name?

ETHEL: Edith.

PAULINE: And what is her last name now?

ETHEL: Joiner.

PAULINE: J O I N E R ?

ETHEL: Right.

PAULINE: Does she live ---

ETHEL: In California.

PAULINE: In California. Will she be coming for Pioneer Day?

ETHEL: I'm hoping, but I don't know.

PAULINE: It would be nice if she can.

ETHEL: Oh yes, I'd love to have her.

PAULINE: How did your parents happen to come to Harney County?

ETHEL: Well my mother was born and raised here.

PAULINE: What was her maiden name?

ETHEL: Parker.

PAULINE: Parker.

ETHEL: And my dad was related to the Oards that used to live below Lawen.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ETHEL: And he came with his father to see them all. And he stayed, and he and my mother were married.

PAULINE: The name Bertha Parker is familiar to me. She grew up around Lawen, didn't she?

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: What were her parent's names?

ETHEL: Tom and Tryphena.

PAULINE: How do you spell Tryphena?

ETHEL: T R Y P H E N A.

PAULINE: That's an unusual name.

ETHEL: It certainly is. And they were married on the way over to America from Africa, on the ship.

PAULINE: From Africa?

ETHEL: Uh huh.

PAULINE: Now how did ---

ETHEL: They were English, and they lived in South Africa.

PAULINE: They were English and they lived in South Africa?

ETHEL: Yes, uh huh.

PAULINE: Do you know what date that was?

ETHEL: I have no idea. No.

PAULINE: That's coming to the United States the long way around, from England.

ETHEL: Yes, well I imagine that they had lived in Africa for quite a long time, because I think some more of their family came at the same time. I'm sure they did.

PAULINE: Well someone told me here several, well a couple of years ago, that I really should interview you, because you could remember something about traveling in a wagon train.

ETHEL: Oh --- (Laughter)

PAULINE: Is that true?

ETHEL: No, that isn't true. When I was about nine and a half, we moved to California from our place down on the lake.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ETHEL: And we went in a wagon, and Mama's sister and her husband went at the same time. It really wasn't a wagon train, we just went that way. There weren't that many cars in those days, you know.

PAULINE: Oh, uh huh. So you just used the wagon and horses to make the trip?

ETHEL: Yes, uh huh.

PAULINE: Okay. So that would have been --- if you were nine, that would have been about 1915, so ---

ETHEL: Let's see, 1916. I was going to be ten that fall.

PAULINE: So you lived down on the lake then for a while?

ETHEL: Yes, my dad had a homestead below Lawen, just west of Saddle Butte.

PAULINE: That would be under water now, wouldn't it?

ETHEL: Oh certainly, yes. It was just a little hay ranch, you know, nothing big. But his folks, his uncles, there were three uncles lived in the vicinity, and that's how we happened to be there I imagine.

PAULINE: How long did you live in Drewsey after you were born?

ETHEL: Oh, I don't know, I suppose I came back over here when I was just a baby.

PAULINE: Okay.

ETHEL: I've never asked anyone, but I imagine ---

PAULINE: You don't remember anything about living there?

ETHEL: No, I don't. My first recollection of anything, I don't even know, I probably was three and a half, maybe three. But anyway, we were living on one of my uncle's places at the time, and my father and mother were --- She was cooking, he was feeding the cattle, and that's the first recollection I have of being anywhere. So I was pretty small, I imagine. And then later, of course, I remember being on the homestead.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Well you have some other brothers and sisters, or other sisters?

ETHEL: There were ten children in our family, seven girls and three boys, seven of whom are still living.

PAULINE: That's really remarkable.

ETHEL: Yes, it is.

PAULINE: For this late in your life.

ETHEL: I think it is.

PAULINE: Well why don't we just start with the oldest and list them all and you can tell me which ones are still ---

ETHEL: Oh, is that what you want to do?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ETHEL: Well there's Edith Joiner.

PAULINE: Okay, and that's J O I N E R ?

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: And she's in California.

ETHEL: And then myself.

PAULINE: Okay.

ETHEL: And Ilda, Melba, Lela, and then a brother Harvey, a brother Gene, Eugene, and then a brother, I can't think of his name, Truman. And then there were two other girls, Ruby and Delores.

PAULINE: Okay, and which ones are still living now? Edith, and Ethel ---

ETHEL: Well two of the boys, there's Harvey and Truman --- Eugene is the only one living. And this one is gone.

PAULINE: Okay, Delores? Okay.

ETHEL: See that's two boys.

PAULINE: So Harvey and Truman are still living?

ETHEL: No. They're --- Eugene is the only one living.

PAULINE: Oh, don't --- wait a minute; let me get this straight now, okay. So Harvey is deceased, and Truman is deceased.

ETHEL: And Delores.

PAULINE: And Delores. Okay. Okay, Ilda is --- Ilda?

ETHEL: Huffman.

PAULINE: Huffman. And that's H U F F M A N ?

ETHEL: Right.

PAULINE: And Melba?

ETHEL: McComb.

PAULINE: McComb. And Lela, is that L E L A ?

ETHEL: L E L A Gray.

PAULINE: G R A Y ?

ETHEL: Right.

PAULINE: And Eugene?

ETHEL: O A R D.

PAULINE: And Ruby?

ETHEL: Baird.

PAULINE: Baird. Okay. And Ilda lives, where does she live now?

ETHEL: Here.

PAULINE: She lives in Burns?

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: And Melba lives in ---

ETHEL: Lebanon.

PAULINE: Lebanon. And Lela lives ---

ETHEL: In Monmouth.

PAULINE: Okay, and Eugene lives?

ETHEL: At Albany.

PAULINE: Albany. And Ruby lives?

ETHEL: Ruby lives here. And you have Edith, who is in California. All right.

PAULINE: Okay.

ETHEL: These aren't places where they have always lived, but that's where they live now.

PAULINE: But that's where they are now. That's what we need to know. Okay. Did you start to school at Lawen?

ETHEL: Well, it wasn't in Lawen. We went to a school down below Lawen, and I don't know whether they called it the Lake District, or I always called it the Oard District, because there was a lot of Oards went. But also your dad ---

PAULINE: I was going to say my dad.

ETHEL: --- and Standley and the sister.

PAULINE: Izola.

ETHEL: Uh huh. They went. And Hayes, three Hayes', and Otleys.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Well didn't they call that the Otley District, maybe?

ETHEL: I don't know. But it was right in that area where we all lived, and then of course they had a school in Lawen besides.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Did you skate to school? My dad talks about skating to school in the wintertime.

ETHEL: No. But we waded in snow clear up to our knees a good many times.

PAULINE: How far did you have to walk?

ETHEL: About a mile and a half, two miles.

PAULINE: That's quite a ways.

ETHEL: Yes, it seemed like it sometimes in the winter.

PAULINE: Did you ever ride, or did you usually walk?

ETHEL: Our dad used to come and pick us up lots of times in the evenings with the team.

PAULINE: What do you remember about your first teacher?

ETHEL: I just remember that it was a woman teacher, and she was very nice. I can't even think of her name, now isn't that something. Mary something, but that's all I can remember. Probably your dad would remember. And I can remember my first car.

PAULINE: That's --- we'd like to hear about that.

ETHEL: (Laughter) I was about, oh, around 4 years old I imagine, and we were visiting at Uncle John and Aunt Mary's place, and Archie McGowan and his son Burns brought a car down for them to look at. So of course he was taking everyone for a ride, and it finally got around to my turn, and I wouldn't get in it. I ran and hid, and crawled under the fence. But finally Aunt Mary coaxed me to get in and take a ride.

PAULINE: After you did get in, did you like it?

ETHEL: I can't remember, I was pretty small. I don't even think they bought a car then.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ETHEL: Because it was several years later before you'd see a car once in a while in that neighborhood, you know. Everyone used horses.

PAULINE: Well I remember Bertha Carey telling me that she didn't like riding in a car, her first ride either.

ETHEL: Well it was so noisy, and ---

PAULINE: And she was a grown woman. She said --- I get different responses from different --- But the men all were really excited about it.

ETHEL: Oh sure, yes.

PAULINE: Do you remember about Christmas parties at the school- house?

ETHEL: I don't ever remember going to a schoolhouse party. We went to Fred Otley's place. They had several children and we had a Christmas there one time. And another time we had a Christmas at Aunt Mary's. And we went to Lawen School one time; I can



remember a program up there.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ETHEL: That's the only Christmas parties I can remember.

PAULINE: You learned to dance at an early age?

ETHEL: Oh, sure!

PAULINE: Tell me about the dances when you were a youngster. What were they like?

ETHEL: Well they did a lot of two steps, and round dances, or whatever you call them. Square dances, they call them, I guess. And just a lot of good old-fashioned dances. Lots of waltzes, Paul Jones and a few things.

PAULINE: And everyone went, the children and all?

ETHEL: Oh, everybody! Took the children, and if they got sleepy, they just put them on a bench somewhere, and went on and danced. We didn't quit then at 1 o'clock, you danced until daylight before you went home. And my mother loved to dance. My dad didn't dance at all. He'd go and take her though, and she'd have a real good time. (Laughter) Kind of a change from having kids at home all the time, to get out and enjoy yourself.

PAULINE: Well with ten children, she had her hands full.

ETHEL: Yeah, but of course some of those weren't born until I was older. Well out of high school.

PAULINE: Out of high school. Uh huh. Did you go to high school at Crane, or did you come into Burns?

ETHEL: No, I went at Crane. We stayed in California when we made the trip down there. We stayed for about two and a half years, I would say. And then we came home and went to school in Crane the rest of the time. And I guess all of us kids graduated from there. The whole family as far as I know.

PAULINE: What year did you graduate?

ETHEL: '25.

PAULINE: 1925?

ETHEL: Uh huh.

PAULINE: That was before the dormitory was built?

ETHEL: Oh yes. Then I went to college one year, Teacher College at Monmouth.

PAULINE: At Monmouth?

ETHEL: And taught at Frenchglen, and then ---

PAULINE: What was it like teaching in a small country school?

ETHEL: Oh, I loved it. We had had some practice teaching in a small school. Well it wasn't too small, but I mean it was only a one room --- taught one class. And when I had about eleven children in school, and all the grades but seventh and eighth. And I loved the little ones. They were the cutest ones of the whole bunch. You felt like you were teaching them more than you did the others, you know. And I might say that they were just building a schoolhouse at Frenchglen, and we held classes in the back of the store until the building was finished.

PAULINE: Oh. Then that's where you met a fellow named Jinks Harris?

ETHEL: Right. They started having dances in the school, which was where they usually had their gatherings for everything. And that's where I met Jinks, and the following year we were married.

PAULINE: What year was that?

ETHEL: It was 1928.

PAULINE: 1928. What month and date were you married?

ETHEL: November 18th.

PAULINE: Now he worked for the Company?

ETHEL: He worked for the ---

PAULINE: The PLS, or Eastern Oregon Livestock.

ETHEL: The Eastern Oregon Livestock Company, up at Three Mile Ranch.

PAULINE: Uh huh, is that where you moved to then to live?

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: And how long were you there?

ETHEL: Well we were there for, I think, only about a year. And if I'm not mistaken that's about the time that the Refuge bought all the Company.

PAULINE: Yes, that would have been --- That's just about the time.

ETHEL: Because they were making a lot of changes. And we were--- we moved to Blitzen, and Jinks drove a truck for Bradeens.

PAULINE: They had a store there?

ETHEL: Yes, uh huh. And then that fall, in December of 1929, Julia was born.

PAULINE: Did you come into Burns, or was she ---

ETHEL: I sure did!

PAULINE: You did.

ETHEL: I didn't go home for a long time. I think that was the coldest winter I can ever remember.

PAULINE: Who did you stay with while you were in town?

ETHEL: With Jink's mother, Mrs. Harris. She had always, took care of that kind of cases, and kept them in her own home, mid-wife, so she called it.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Ever since I can remember you and Jinks were associated with Harris Hardware. When did you go into that business?

ETHEL: Sure. Well we were still back on; we were on ranches most of the time. But in about 19---, oh it must have been 1934 we went to the refuge headquarters and Jinks worked with the CCC boys until war was declared and then of course the camps broke up

and we moved to Burns then.

PAULINE: Was he kind of --- was he more of a supervisor?

ETHEL: Yes, uh huh.

PAULINE: Of the boys, and helped with the construction down there?

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: Building fence, and ---

ETHEL: Fence and head gates, and I don't know what all. He took a spike camp, they called it over to Hart Mountain one year, and they did some road building, and canal work over there around those lakes. And he just was in charge of a group of the boys. And of course the girls, we had another girl by this time.

PAULINE: Yeah, and I'm trying desperately to remember her name.

ETHEL: Kathryn.

PAULINE: Okay, I wanted to say Patsy, and I knew that was wrong. It's K A T H ---

ETHEL: T H R Y N.

PAULINE: R Y N. And what's her last name now while we're here.

ETHEL: Hill.

PAULINE: Kathryn Hill, and she lives in?

ETHEL: Anchorage.

PAULINE: Anchorage. And of course Julia Milleson lives here in Hines.

ETHEL: Yes. But they started to school, they went one year at Voltage, their first year, and then at Sod House School. And they were in, I think, in the sixth grade by the time we moved to Burns. I hope those dates jive.

PAULINE: Okay, well what --- If Julia was born in '29 ---

ETHEL: In '29, and we moved here ---

PAULINE: When was Kathryn born?

ETHEL: She was born in '31.

PAULINE: In '31, and sixth grade she would have been 12. Well no it would have been 11 maybe. About 1940, that comes out about right.

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: About 1940 when you moved into town?

ETHEL: '42.

PAULINE: 1942.

ETHEL: But Julia was already 6. And they let Kathryn start before she was 6. So this is where the discrepancy.

PAULINE: Oh, so they were together.

ETHEL: Yeah, they were always together in school.

PAULINE: Oh, okay. Well how did you happen to get into the hardware business?

ETHEL: Well Jinks went to work for Dillman's when he came to town. I think the next day after we moved to town.

PAULINE: It was Dillman's Hardware then?

ETHEL: Yes. And in a couple of years, in 1944 he and Hale bought the store.

PAULINE: Uh huh. Were he and Melba already --- not Melba ---

ETHEL: Ruby.

PAULINE: Ruby, already married then?

ETHEL: Yes, yes. He worked at Sod House when Jinks was in the camp. He was in the camp, and they were acquainted there. And Hale and Ruby were married. Of course he had to go to war, and they were married before he went to the service.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ETHEL: And then after he got out of the service, why he and Jinks went into the store together.

PAULINE: Well there's a lot of memories down there.

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: Well, you've been real active in community events after you moved to town.

ETHEL: Well I don't know. It seemed like I was wound up in everything. (Laughter)

PAULINE: I think it would be hard to say anything else.

ETHEL: I guess I did it just because I needed something to do, and Jinks always wanted me to. He was so active in all-civic things, that he wanted me to.

PAULINE: Well you worked in the store a little bit, but not a ---

ETHEL: Oh yes, I worked in the store when Dillmans had it. I worked in the store until --- and then I worked off and on for a few other years.

PAULINE: Well Sylvia Rebekah Lodge, of course, is the one we all know the best.

ETHEL: Yes, and I've worked in the Presbyterian Church.

PAULINE: Were you ever a Mother's Club member?

ETHEL: Uh huh. And I think that's about all. But it kept me busy.

PAULINE: Well I know how busy it kept you.

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: You were --- Of course you were Noble Grand of Rebekahs. Were you President of the Burns Mother's Club at one time?

ETHEL: Yes, uh huh.

PAULINE: Were you active in Mother's Club at the time that they were campaigning to get household delivery of mail?

ETHEL: No, that was just before I joined, I guess. I can remember Faye Smith working on this quite --- And she was out of office and gone, she still came, but I mean --- She had done her duty as an officer. I was going to say I was president, but I guess I was a past president by that time when they --- not too long though until they disbanded

Mother's Club. The Museum Club Room, I guess took charge of it.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ETHEL: But it was a wonderful organization.

PAULINE: They did a lot of good things.

ETHEL: Did a lot of things for the community.

PAULINE: Well I know now that I've gone back to work full time, that I find that my time is just so limited. Don't you think that has something to do with the difference in the kinds of organizations we have today and the things that they are doing?

ETHEL: I imagine so.

PAULINE: It's that more women are working, and they just ---

ETHEL: Yes, they just don't have time for it, you know. They just don't hang together anymore and need to get out, and do things because they're --- a lot of them are working toward the same goals even in their jobs. We don't want to forget that Lynn came along in these years too.

PAULINE: Well I was thinking that a little while ago, that we didn't want to forget Lynn, because she was along later. She came along later.

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: What was her birthday?

ETHEL: In April of '48.

PAULINE: I can remember when --- I was 10 when you were expecting Lynn.

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: It always intrigued me when, I was always really excited about that. It was probably about the first time I became really aware someone was going to have a baby.

ETHEL: Oh, was that right?

PAULINE: You know, that's all I ---

ETHEL: Well of course I was --- Your mother and I were together a lot, and good friends and so --- You would know, but it was quite a happening in our life too. (Laughter)

PAULINE: But a very good one, at that.

ETHEL: A very good one. We really enjoyed a baby late in life.

PAULINE: And of course then Jinks became ill and passed away. What was the date of his death?

ETHEL: October 15th, in '72. And that's just about where it stopped for me. Of course in 1977 then I married Wick.

PAULINE: In 1977. Well I don't think it stopped there for you. No, no.

ETHEL: Oh no, it didn't stop, but I mean that's where the time came that I didn't have much to say.

PAULINE: Well you today are still; participate in the Senior Center activities.

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: And I don't know how active you still are in the church doings.

ETHEL: I don't, I don't participate much in anything anymore, because my time is kind of taken up at home. And I'm getting older, I feel like let the younger women do it.

PAULINE: Well I'm not that old yet, and I already feel that way. (Laughter) Okay, well I think we didn't really talk too much about your --- we talked about how your mother's family happened to get here, but I don't think we talked too much about your father's family. You said that he came to visit other Oards that were already here?

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: Where did he come from?

ETHEL: Well he came from, he lived in California.

PAULINE: Is Oard an English name too, or ---

ETHEL: Irish.



PAULINE: Irish, yeah. Do you remember what his parent's names were?

ETHEL: My father's parents?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

ETHEL: David and his mother's name was Ellen. I never knew her, but I knew his stepmother, she was an Italian. The sweetest person you ever knew in your life.

PAULINE: What was her name?

ETHEL: Her name was Carey, Carey. And when we lived down there she was so good to all of us. Just, you know, we all just loved her.

PAULINE: And they lived in California?

ETHEL: Yes.

PAULINE: They didn't ever live in Harney County?

ETHEL: No, I don't even know how long they stayed when they came up that time. They were here until after Mama and Daddy were married. They must have gone back because my parents went back shortly, and my older sister was born in California. And then they came home before I was born. I called it home, back to Harney County.

PAULINE: Well, it is the way most of us feel about it. There's something about Harney County gets in your system.

ETHEL: I don't think I'd ever have liked to have lived anywhere else. Not knowing, of course, but I've always just felt good here.

PAULINE: Did you cook for hay crews?

ETHEL: Oh sure, hay crews, shepherders, and wool shearers. Sheep shearers, the whole bit.

PAULINE: Tell me about a day when the sheep shearers came to shear. What was it like?

ETHEL: Well it was really, a real busy day. Because you started early in the morning,

and you had two meals probably at noon, there was so many people there. Because the trucks were coming in to haul the wool out. And this was the Baddin Lake Ranch, when we worked for Paul Stewart. And he had about 2,000 head, I think. Two big bunches anyway. Bands I guess you call it. And the sheep shearers, they used to go just around, you know, in just a crew. Go everywhere where they had to have sheep sheared. And I think Lloyd Hill was in this bunch of sheep shearers. And they even sheared sheep clear up through Wyoming, and into Montana, and down through Idaho, and then just worked their way, you know, wherever they needed to go. But you had a big early breakfast, and then you had two main meals in the middle of the day.

PAULINE: What would you serve for breakfast?

ETHEL: Oh dear. You had biscuits, and you had cereal, and bacon and eggs, and ---

PAULINE: Lots of coffee?

ETHEL: Oh, lots of coffee. And then for dinner you always had beef or pork, you know. Something of that nature from the ranch. And you always had dessert. Lots of potatoes and gravy and beans. (Laughter)

PAULINE: I was going to say potatoes and gravy.

ETHEL: And at this ranch, we always had a big garden, so we had lots of vegetables. And fruit, they had apples and pears. And of course you had your supper too, another meal, but they were kind of thinned out by then. You just had your shearers and the ranch hands. You didn't have the wool haulers.

PAULINE: Did you feed them all in your house, or did you set up tables outside?

ETHEL: No, they had a pretty good-sized ranch house. And they had a big table in the dining room. They all ate in the dining room.

PAULINE: I know every year when Allan brands; I usually have about twenty people. And I always think, well I'll just serve this out on the lawn, but I always end up --- They

like to come in the house and sit down. Seems like they are working outside, and for them a break is to come in. Where if you're inside, a break would be to go outside.

ETHEL: Right.

PAULINE: Well of course you didn't have running water.

ETHEL: We had a pump in the house there.

PAULINE: A pump in the house.

ETHEL: And we also did over at, in one of the places that we lived, at Home Creek.

PAULINE: Did you have a pitcher pump on the ---

ETHEL: We had a pitcher pump on the sink. Uh huh. Right in the house, which made it pretty handy. Better than packing it in a bucket.

PAULINE: I guess. And a wood stove.

ETHEL: Definitely a wood stove. Hauled juniper from up on Steens to burn.

PAULINE: Well, that would keep the woman pretty busy all day.

ETHEL: Yeah.

PAULINE: Did you have some help, or would you try to do it by yourself?

ETHEL: I had help part of the time at Paul's, but I never had any anywhere else that I lived on a ranch. I did it myself. They always seemed to like to come to our place, so I guess they got enough to eat.

PAULINE: Well that's a pretty good recommendation. Well is there anything that you had thought about when you were thinking about writing your history that we haven't talked about, that's important?

ETHEL: I don't really think so. That's about it. (Laughter) It seems when they talk about they want a history; I don't feel like I've made any history. I've just lived here and did the best I knew how, and that's all I could do.

PAULINE: Some of your hobbies have been --- I know that you and Jinks used to hunt

and fish.

ETHEL: Oh yes, we used to hunt.

PAULINE: Did you have other hobbies that were more just for yourself?

ETHEL: I loved to read and do crossword puzzles. But that's about all I could do extra, you know, besides --- 'cause we did a lot of fishing in the summertime, we had a boat. And it was a good time to get away from town. 'Cause if you stayed in town you had to go to the store.

PAULINE: Did they call you at home even?

ETHEL: Sometimes, yeah. A few times. I can remember one time Jinks was doing something, I believe fixing around the window frames, he was on a ladder of course outside, and somebody called and ask for him, and I said, he isn't here. And I went back out and I told him, I hope there's nobody where they could, it was nobody that could see.

PAULINE: That could see from the next door that he was out there.

ETHEL: They'd think I was an "A" number one liar. But I thought our house probably was just about as important to get it fixed up, instead of going to the store.

PAULINE: I guess. Well I really appreciate your taking time to do this today, and letting me tape it for the Oral History project. Tell me though, what do you remember about your wagon trip to California. Did you remember much about that trip?

ETHEL: Oh yeah, I was a little over 9, about 9 and a half years old. And we just drove as far as they wanted to go, you know, and then they'd lay over some days to work on the wagons or --- I remember one time we stopped and the women did the laundry, and the men went fishing, and then that would be a day of rest, sort of for us. But us kids had a ball. We'd get out and walk, you know, and I imagine it was kind of hairy for the folks taking that many kids and going on a trip like that. But there were a lot of people doing it. As we were going down to California, why we met people coming this direction. And we

just really had a real good trip going down, you know. It was real different, of course, in California than here. It was when we first saw our first grapes and figs, and things like that.

PAULINE: When they moved back then, did you come the same way?

ETHEL: No, no we didn't. When we went down we went down past Lakeview, and Alturas, and down toward Chico, and to the Sacramento country, and then on down. When we came home we came right up over the top of the Sierras, and it was late in the fall and we got caught in a snowstorm, and a few other hairy things.

PAULINE: You used a truck or something then?

ETHEL: No, no we came back with our horses and wagons, but we didn't expect to get caught up there in a snowstorm. It would have been all right otherwise.

PAULINE: What did you do, did you stop and ---

ETHEL: Well they kept coming because they wanted to get over before it got any worse. It was in October, I believe. But then we got over; there was only the one storm. But it made pretty bad going for a while. I remember one river, or creek, I don't know which it was that we had to cross, and it was swollen, you know, with the rain and the snow, and it was pretty hairy crossing that, I can remember. They didn't even go on the road, they found a better place where they thought they could cross, and came down the mountain. They put blocks on their hind wheels, you know, for brakes, 'cause it was steep. Most of us walked, you know, we didn't --- I guess maybe our parents didn't want us riding in the wagons in case something went wrong. So most of us walked down the mountain, it wasn't all that far. We came down to Carson City and then on home that way, Winnemucca and then up into Catlow Valley. We stopped at Three Mile Ranch, and Daddy and my Uncle Morgan worked there a while, and then we came on down to the P Ranch and eventually on up to the Crane country. We had a real good time in high

school; just all of us just had a real good time. It was a small school, you know. The girls played basketball, their own rules. Of course we had a coach, but we didn't play against any-body, we just had our teams in our school. We played tennis and we played ball, baseball. Every Friday night the kinds would all go up to the schoolhouse and they had a radio up there that they could get music on and we'd dance and have a good time up there. If it wasn't --- Usually we had dances downtown.

PAULINE: Well Crane had --- About that time there was several businesses there.

ETHEL: Oh yes, uh huh. There was a couple of stores, post office, two garages, telephone office, bank, and about three hotels and eating-places, and a warehouse, two warehouses. And just a pretty good little place there for a while.

PAULINE: There was a movie theater there too, for a while.

ETHEL: Yes, it was later. I don't think I ever went to a movie there, maybe one. But that was after I had graduated and gone, left Crane. It was a store to start with; Jeff Cawlfild from Drewsey had a store in there. And I think Weinstein's that used to be in Burns had a store there for a while too. Of course they had this big stockyard there, and always shipped cattle and sheep and horses or whatever there was to go out.

PAULINE: Well the Crane --- while you were in high school the train came just that far. Or did it go on into Burns?

ETHEL: Well I can't remember just when it went on into Burns, but when we were first there, Crane was the end of it, and I don't remember what year it came on to Burns. But it must have been built before I was --- it must have come on into Burns before I graduated, I don't, I just don't remember that.

PAULINE: Well how did you get to school from Lawen? 'Cause it would have been what, about 10 miles for you to get to Crane from where you lived?

ETHEL: Oh, we didn't go back to Lawen.

PAULINE: Oh, you didn't go back to Lawen.

ETHEL: Oh we didn't go back to Lawen.

PAULINE: So you lived right in town there?

ETHEL: Yeah, until what year was it? My first year of high school, the folks moved to Albritton out at Saddle Butte. And then is when the kids were coming and living with families. Before they had the ---

PAULINE: Before the dormitory?

ETHEL: Before the dorm. And they had kids from Drewsey, and down south, and just all over the country would come in and stay with families in town. I did that almost four years of high school. It was after we were --- after I was married, and we lived up on the Company Ranch that we were all told to come into Crane. They were going to vote on this deal of making it a Union District out of it, which would take it all of that, and fixed it up so they could have a dorm, and the kids could come in and live in the dorm. So that was about in 19--- must have been in 1931, or somewhere along in there.

PAULINE: Yeah, I think that's the date I ran across the other day when they decided to build the dorm.

ETHEL: And that was awfully nice for the kids.

PAULINE: Yeah, it still is. I've gotten acquainted out there a little bit since I went to work for the paper, I've been covering the Crane School events, and I'm just really impressed with what they do out there.

ETHEL: Uh huh, sure. It's been a nice thing, and I guess the Lawen --- Did the Lawen School go in with them too?

PAULINE: Yes. Well I think we could call an end to this and then I'll probably need to call and ask you some more questions when I go back over this.

ETHEL: Well I don't want too much in the paper, you know, then I'll have ---

PAULINE: Well what we try to do ---

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