

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #229 - Sides A & B

Subject: Historical Society Tour With Marcus Haines

Place:

Date: 1977

Interviewer: Marcus Haines

MARCUS HAINES: ... and the Davis Family Corporations.

JESSIE WILLIAMS: Well, I had a picture of the ---

MARCUS: I think somebody's a little wrong on the ownerships through there, but anyway that's what they have.

JESSIE: I have a picture up there in the museum of John Devine. And there was a man came in here, I don't know whether it was last year, or year before, of the same name. And he was talking about it, and I had John Devine's life written by Ilda Mae Hayes, up there in the museum. Bring it up and we'll check on it and see if Ilda Mae --- (Laughter)

MARCUS: I have that article of Ilda Maes too.

WOMAN #1: Is that the same Devine that that memorial --- up Devine Ridge?

MARCUS: I suppose it is.

MAN #1: Yeah, that was the ---

WOMAN #1: Well that wasn't the ridge ---

MAN #1: Yeah, that's the same one.

JESSIE: He said he wasn't very proud of the way he got all his land, so he said he didn't think he wanted to claim relationship.

MARCUS: Oh, he knew all about him, huh?

JESSIE: I told him ... about the land, like it said there.

MARCUS: Yeah.

MAN #2: I know, down below the house, you know, the main house where the Davises live now. About eight years ago there was still some of them poles --- posts put in the ground there that had ... with the holes through them where he kept the ... there were a few of them posts down there about eight years ago. I don't know if they're still there yet or not now.

MARCUS: Well Charlie Chapman was down ... a lot of you know him. He came to the Alvord in 1913. He was fifteen years old. And he went to work for his brother Edgar who was running the --- he was buckaroo boss there at the time. And he worked until 1919, when he left and married my sister, and they moved to Idaho. And then Albert --- or Edgar later married Mrs. Frank Clerf when Frank died, when I --- it must have been '24 or '23 or something at the time. Well anyway, this corral that you're talking about, with the holes through the fence, that was for his elk. And they got old Honery Don, they finally got those elk cornered and got them into the corral there, and they got Honery Don to go in there and he roped those elk, and they crated them and put them on a freight wagon and hauled them to Winnemucca and they went to the San Francisco Park. Yes.

MAN #2: I know. They was telling me, started to drive them first you know, when they was going to take them to ---

MARCUS: Yeah.

MAN #2: Didn't drive like cattle. They got up on this end of the desert, they just decided to go home, and there was nobody stopping them.

MARCUS: Then he tells another one too; this was probably the best one, about driving six hundred hogs to Winnemucca. (Laughter) He said they got them out there on the Alvord Desert, took all hands and all the cooks and everybody else, but they got them

out on the desert and --- he said after they got them out of the site of the house there, they were easier to move than cattle were. And he said that just at the break of day, he said you could hear hogs ... everywhere. You wanted to be on your horse and ready to go, because they were. (Laughter) They just herd them along, and when they started warming up, they just shack up under sagebrush and lay there until it cooled off and then they pick up and start rushing along and they said they would drive them until dark then. They had the freight wagons along loaded with grain and they'd feed them, said they didn't have to night herd them or a thing --- go right to bed. (Laughter) Those buckaroos, real fun, taking hogs down to Winnemucca. (Laughter)

MAN #2: Yeah, I heard hog drives ... talking about them elk, they said they done everything ... turn them elk loose you know, they'd go up the road and cycle back to the ranch ... they had three big old bulls that would just run right over top of you, horseback and all, and go back.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

MAN #2: Said they didn't get very far with them.

MARCUS: Said old Honery Don wouldn't let anybody in the corral with him. He got in there alone and roped those elk. And he said he could never throw an elk off of his feet. He'd --- he'd, you know, throw the rope over him like you would dump an old cow, but he didn't dump one of those elk. Said they'd come out of that rope standing on their feet and they finally got choked down and they get them dragged into a crate, and then pull the crate out and put another one in there. But --- Honery would never let anybody in there with him.

WOMAN #2: Marcus, I heard you say originally at the Alvord Ranch there was racehorses. Where --- I mean on --- okay, I can understand racehorses, where did they get them?

MARCUS: Where'd they run them, huh?

WOMAN #2: Yeah, right.

MAN #2: Well at the Whitehorse they had a racetrack.

WOMAN #2: Oh did --- oh.

MAN #2: At the Whitehorse they had a racetrack.

WOMAN #2: That was a private racetrack? Privately owned and, and it was just the ranchers got together.

MARCUS: There was horse races everyplace back in those days. When I was a kid, you know, you didn't have the TV's, and you didn't have all of the ... and you go to a Fourth of July celebration, and then you celebrate for a week. You'd play ball and run race horses some times, and dance all night, and fight in between time a little. (Laughter) Yeah. You bet. And so having a good racehorse was a pretty good investment.

WOMAN #2: In other words, it was a social thing among the ranchers through here ---

MARCUS: Yes, yes it was. If you want to hear something about race horses, you go in, you know Alice Johnston that runs the --- she used to jockey for these fellows here out on the lake. She was telling me about --- I've got to get in there with my tape recorder and get a story. I got one from Ethel, telling about being born in the Whitehorse Creek up here. (Laughter)

WOMAN #3: Said what?

WOMAN #2: Being born at Whitehorse Creek.

MARCUS: Yeah, she --- her mother felt the urge, and she went --- the old man was across the river --- across the creek there unloading some hay, so she went over and said --- whatever his name was --- said you better get Mrs. Honery Don, what did they call her? Nellie I believe.

WOMAN #3: Nellie.

MARCUS: Yeah, Nellie. I'm going to have a baby. Well he said you get back to the house and I'll go and get her. But she didn't make it back to the house, she borned Ethel right in the Creek as she crossed it. (Laughter) You betcha, Ethels --- I got that on tape. (Laughter) She tells about --- they used to, had ... you know, bet a thousand dollars on these horses. And---

WOMAN #2: That was big money --- my Lord --- for them.

MARCUS: You bet it was big money. Well those fellows had big money.

WOMAN #2: Really?

MARCUS: You bet they did. Yeah, they had big money. So --- shuck out fifty dollars --
-

JESSIE: Didn't have any debts either.

WOMAN #2: Yes, well I know about big --- they were truly deeded land, where they held the deed. I'm aware of that, you know I---

JESSIE: Well they didn't have any charge plates or anything else in those days.

WOMAN #2: No, no BankAmericard, huh Jessie.

MARCUS: Jessie can tell you about coming to The Narrows. You know where The Narrows is? You probably don't.

WOMAN #2: ... pointed that out to me, yes.

MARCUS: Yeah, we'll go through there this afternoon. But Jessie can tell you about celebrating Fourth of July there for a week at a time, can't you?

JESSIE: Oh yes.

MARCUS: You betcha. She lived over at the Double "O" at that time.

WOMAN #2: Oh.

MARCUS: She lived over there at the Double "O" there for I don't

know how long, and never been on the south side of Harney Lake.

JESSIE: Never been on the south side of Harney Lake.

MARCUS: We'll have to take her around. (Laughter)

WOMAN #4: Wally would be delighted to take you.

MARCUS: Yeah.

WOMAN #4: That's the awfulest trip I ever went on, that's out around Harney Lake.

(Laughter)

MARCUS: Well, you have ...

MAN #3: Marcus, I ---

MARCUS: Dust that deep, and ---

MAN #3: I'm glad that she found another trip that she disliked more than coming down Stonehouse Canyon.

MARCUS: Oh, did you bring her down there?

MAN #3: About two or three times, and they ---

MARCUS: You brought me down there once, and there was fingerprints all over the back end of that jeep, I'll tell you that. (Laughter)

WOMAN #2: You've got a thing about Stonehouse, one of those things ...

MARCUS: I've got a thing about coming down there too. All I could see was those gas cans behind me there, you know.

WOMAN #2: Every little ridge back in there --- was it the Indians that named it, were they --- or pioneer families?

MARCUS: Brakes went out and he was as bad as old man Currey down in there.

WOMAN #2: And --- related to something, an experience or ...

WOMAN #3: Lived there a lot of them, you know, and they just named it after their name.

WOMAN #2: It all looks the same, and like when our narrator was saying this is, you know, Rattlesnake Canyon or whatever --- and I'm going oh, really. It just looks ---

WOMAN #3: ... it's something, you know ...

WOMAN #2: --- it all looks the same, I --- this ---

MARCUS: I think it ... most of the way down there, wasn't it Delmer?

MAN #3: Starting down the ---

WOMAN #2: I figured that, I didn't know if it came from the Indians or whether it was our pioneer families.

JESSIE: No, I don't think it was ... Indian names, I didn't think they were.

WOMAN #2: They didn't sound Indian.

JESSIE: Huh uh.

... (Multiple conversations)

MAN #3: And I heard that old engine quit. So I just kept a going and found a good high bank and I didn't say a word to Marcus ... I run right into the bank. (Laughter)

WOMAN #3: Yeah, he told me ...

MARCUS: Do you want a little history on Andrews ...

WOMAN #2: Andrews town site.

... (Multiple conversations)

MARCUS: In 1890, Pete Andrews built a stone house about two miles from the present town of Andrews. And on October 6th, of the same year, the Andrews post office was established with Peter Andrews postmaster.

In 1897, the two Smyth brothers, John and George --- now that was, his parents were burned by the Indians in '78, moved from Diamond Valley to Andrews. They established a hotel and a saloon and later a store. The saloon has been, has been rumored to be the first in Harney County, although this is probably more romantic fiction

than facts. The saloon measures thirty-five by twenty-eight and a half feet, and contains five small rooms. It is a board on batten construction with a typical false front, characteristic of the early day commercial buildings. The interior was generally rough, but was graced with a wall length mirror behind the bar on a copper railing, or footrest along the large front. The saloon served a variety of purposes. Occasionally church services were held in the saloon by circuit riding preachers. And a traveling dentist is said to have set up a business in the saloon on --- find the rest of it here --- where the devil did I put it? The traveling photographers had been known to use it as a temporary studio.

When prohibition stopped the legal sale of whiskey, the saloon was used for community dances and gatherings that had been even used as a temporary residence.

At its height of prosperity, Andrews consisted of two to three stone buildings, in addition to the saloon. Approximately twenty people resided permanently in the town. But the settlement served as --- but the settlement served as a commercial and social center for the widely dispersed homesteaders and ranchers in the Alvord Valley.

Rodeo, rodeos, horse races, dances, and potluck suppers were held in the town. In 1924, the hotel burned. It was owned at this time by a Basco family, the Urizars. Like other rural commercial ventures, Andrews declined in importance with the rise of Burns and modern transportation. And on December the 27, 1968, the post office was closed.

Today a school, a two stone --- and two stone buildings used in residence, a wood frame house for the teacher, a boarded up saloon, and a few other structures constitute all that remains in the town. Andrews --- Andrews and --- they got Maggie here --- Margie Shull reside in one of the store buildings, which used to be a dance hall.

Andrew Shull recently moved the stone foundation to the Smyth --- of the Smyth Hotel.

In 1974, seven students attended the Andrews School. And due to problems with school budgets these days, the future of the school is uncertain. Today it still serves as a community center. That ... George, when you were a youngster, wasn't it? ... It isn't Urizar?

MAN #4: Well, where was the old Turner place, George?

GEORGE RENWICK: Right there where I said Harry Blair lives ...

MAN #4: Oh.

GEORGE: Before you get to Andrews.

MAN #4: I knew it was up in there somewhere, but I didn't know just which one ... Turner place and Blairs.

WOMAN #3: ... pardon me. There's still a school?

WOMAN #2: Oh yes, yes the school is still there. In fact when I was, when we were just at the Davis Ranch, Mrs. Davis was telling me that they, they just completed finishing interviewing three people for the teacher's position, and they pretty well set them-selves, pretty well set on a single girl, first years teacher from --- and I guess she's from Sisters. The school is definitely functioning, and probably the --- as I remember the time I went there with my husband, most of the children were from the Davis Ranch, and there was, plus the ranch hands children. Seven sounded just about right the time I was there.

JESSIE: There only has to be four drawing school money I think to keep a district going.

WOMAN #2: Pardon me, Jessie.

JESSIE: I think there only has to be four, used to be. Drawing school money.

WOMAN #2: Uh huh. I don't know.

JESSIE: The teacher can be one of them. (Laughter)

MARCUS: They don't go to the Steens; the Alvord doesn't go to the Steens Mountain School then?

WOMAN #2: Uh, no. The Steens Mountain is --- those students are from the Mann Lakes Ranch, and from the Juniper Ranch. That comprises the student body at the Steens Mountain School. And the time I was there, as I recall there was about --- and that was about a year and a half, maybe two years ago. No, I guess it was last year I went, that was it. And I think there was four. And my understanding at that time was the owner of the Mann Lake and the Juniper Ranch, were the ones that paid the salary of the teacher.

JESSIE: Yeah, she was in the museum last year.

WOMAN #2: That's right, that's, they supported the school. They got some state funding as I recall. I.E.D. did a lot of helping and setting it up, etc. But ---

MAN #2: They got transportation and school money and they use it to help pay the teachers, but they paid school ...

WOMAN #2: Basically, yes. That's right. That was my under-standing ... my husband is. That they support --- and I think, Mrs. Davis was saying there's been somewhat of a change about that now. There was confusion, and we were interrupted, so I didn't really get it all, but it sounds, I'm not to be quoted on this but I kind of got the gist that maybe they've kind of got it --- incorporated it. It's district one, and like district two now, sort of. Is what I think she was coming to say.

JESSIE: They said it was cheaper for them to do that than it was to try to take them to the other schools.

WOMAN #2: Yes, well ---

GEORGE: There was a big critical point there last year ...

WOMAN #2: Right.

GEORGE: Most of us from the north end, so now they're going to split it up and go, you know, pay both ways. Before all the school board members was on the south end, and they didn't want to do anything to the Juniper Ranch or Mann Lake.

WOMAN #2: Right.

GEORGE: All they wanted to do is just give them transportation to them, and let it go at that.

MARCUS: I know we came down here one time when Marvin Berrington was on the Whitehorse; he was the Grassman of the Year. And we, we're going back along in December and it was just snowing to beat the devil, and we run onto Bessie Blair, almost to the Alvord there. She'd had a flat tire; we changed the tire for her. And she was hauling the kids from here someplace; going --- and she had to go clear to the Juniper Ranch with them there. I think she was worried about whether she was going to make it through the storm.

WOMAN #2: The time I had gone to the Steens Mountain School, the teacher was --- had a --- quarters, living quarters at the Mann Lake Ranch. She was given a four-wheel drive rig with a CB radio. And she would leave in the morning, take the children from the Mann Lake School, go to the Juniper School, pick up those children, then go to the school. Spend the day at the schoolhouse which was that mobile home that we saw on the way up.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

WOMAN #2: Then when school was over ... them in, and then she would drive them back to the schools, and then back to Mann Lake. MARCUS: She drove the bus and taught school both then?

WOMAN #2: Yes, uh huh. And as I recall, the school bus was owned by the Mann

Lake Ranch. This is ---

MARCUS: ... if you're late for school, wouldn't it? (Laughter) Well folks, let's kind of gather up and ...

ART SAWYER: Some of them that --- I used to stay at Areolas there at the Hotel at Andrews. When I first come here, when I come to the south end of the county, I kind of made my headquarters there. And they had quite a big family. And all of the boys and girls were --- had Basco names, until they got down to the last one, and his name was Danny.

MARCUS: They run out of Basco names.

ART: They run out of Basco names. (Laughter)

... (Blank space on tape)

WOMAN #2: ... these places today, years ago it was ... when you stop to think about it, not that great many years ago.

MAN #3: At the Whitehorse, I've rode a saddle horse from the Whitehorse to Lawen. But I left at three o'clock in the morning, and I didn't get in there until about eleven o'clock that night too. And that's a riding all day. And that's a riding all day. WOMAN #2: Were you going to say the only way they could get the cattle out of here was how?

MAN #3: They'd stayed down there at Winnemucca, that was the closest rail, was Winnemucca.

WOMAN #2: Well how far was that from say the Alvord Ranch?

MAN #3: Well you see it's ah, 126 miles from Fields, probably be about 140 miles. But the Island Ranch, right out of Burns used to ship cattle from there clear to Winnemucca. A friend of mine used to --- that was there, he used to work for me at the Island Ranch.

WOMAN #2: The Island Ranch is Vogler, right?

MAN #3: Right, right. And he's made, I don't know how many ---

MARCUS: This is Beatys Butte right directly out in front of us is one of the landmarks used to be, over most all of the country out in here. South end of Harney County.

WOMAN #2: What did you say it was? Beatys Butte. ... We're going to the Catlow Valley now.

REX BOSCH: I can't find it. It used to be part of an old house where he homesteaded right in here. Didn't he Wally? Didn't Sandy Morris' brother homestead right in here somewhere?

WALLY WELCOME: I don't know, Rex.

REX: What the heck was his name, the one that was ---

MAN #5: Lee Morris ---

REX: Lee. Didn't he homestead right in here somewhere?

MAN #5: Right around here someplace, I don't know where ---

REX: Right over here somewhere. I was thinking right around in here, but I --- There used to be a hole kind of about where his old house used to set, but I can't find it. Horses going through the, they was running horses ... somewhere.

WOMAN #2: We usually go to the museum every year to refresh my mind, but I don't ...

REX: Yeah, you can see a lot of dust where they're running horses right out there ...

WOMAN #2: Well, what do you mean by running horses? To Winnemucca to sell, or --
- Oh. ...

MAN #5: ...

MAN #6: ... we've got wells out here that pump 2,000 gallons ...

MAN #7: ... come over from the right of Skull Creek. ... Alvord, he was telling about, Mexican getting beat out of his wages up here at Skull Creek. It's on up ahead there. Clyde McKelvey finally got it. He raised his family there. John McKelvey used to be a state policeman, that's where he was raised. Get up there to Smyth Flat, on up north of

there, south end of the Steens on that road.

REX: ... used to be one right back there. I can't think of the name of it. It used to be a sign there. But I can't remember. The Spangleburger and H. L. Maybe it was Spangleburger, but I don't know for sure. ... up here.

...

MAN #7: This little place right here is where Billy Brezniak lives now. Wade Bailey used to have it years ago. Billy has had it now for quite a little while.

There's another road that you can go up to Smyth Flat on, it goes up on top here. You've been to Skull Creek, but you can go on up to Smyth Flat.

REX: There isn't anything there now. Yes, that's all it was, just ... camp is all.

MAN #7: Out in the valley, there were several towns. Blitzen, Duval, right along here, there wasn't any towns. Just these ranches. Right here is what they call the Three Mile. They built dikes and dams here to hold this water in the ... Allied built ... dike, to hold this water back from going out into Catlow Valley. Well you can see the water behind the dike.

The ranch you see coming up here, right hand, is Home Creek. They used that for a stage stop for quite a ... stage stops.

This rim here is one of the best rattlesnake countries in Harney County, anymore.

MARCUS: ... you look and see if it's branded Ellen ...

WOMAN #2: I'll pass; I don't want to find one.

MARCUS: It says here, on the history of the Shirk Ranch --- In 1876, Dave Shirk filed a homestead claim on Home Creek in Catlow Valley. And his brother William homesteaded the Three Mile Creek, this is just the place we left right back here. They were first to settle in Catlow Valley, which was named for their former employer, John

Catlow who homesteaded on the other side of Steens Mountain. Now that's around Trout Creek country over there. Both ranches became quite large, and the Shirk brothers became famous for their long cattle drives. This fellow John Catlow, who Catlow Valley was named for, never owned any property in Catlow Valley; I think the way the story goes.

But on September 22, 1890, a post office named Shirk was established at, or near the Home Creek Ranch, with Lenore Mott first postmistress. Then Francis M. Shirk was appointed post-mistress in 1892, and the office was closed to Diamond over here in May of --- on May 16th, 1902. And that's --- there's a little more here about the - -- if I can read it. This was written, printed out here ---

Conflict between settlers and cattle kings in Harney County over land rights, were for the most part resolved in the courts. In two cases, the conflict resulted in murders. The murder of Pete French is quite famous, and the second case was an attempted murder of Dave Shirk. Pete French wanted Shirk's grazing land in the Catlow Valley. Added to this hostility was the fact that both men were courting the same girl. Well that's ... worse yet. (Laughter) But Shirk had won and married her. So in 1888, James Izacks shot at Shirk, and Shirk killed Izacks. Apparently Izacks had been hired by Pete French to kill Shirk, to get him out of the way. If Izacks failed to kill Shirk, it was figured that Shirk would be sent to the penitentiary for killing Izacks. And of course, he wasn't. (Laughter)

JESSIE: You ought to talk to Velfa Richardson about some of that murdering too. She knows ---

MARCUS: So for both Izacks and French, the plan backfired. And in 1889, the jury at Harney County, at Harney City, acquitted Dave Shirk. Then in 1889, three big cattle companies, owned most of the land and livestock in Harney County. It would be

Frenchglen, Pacific Livestock, and Riley and Harden Cattle Companies. They owned 67.3 percent of all the cattle in the county, exclusive of the big three --- something about five owners. Owners controlled more than 1,000 head of cattle of these. The Shirk brothers were second in line, owning 1,200 head of cattle.

Eventually the Shirks transferred their ranching operation to the eastern Lake County, and the Shirk's post office was re-established in that area, September 10th, 1903, with Olive B. Shirk as postmistress. And that --- they moved from here over into Guanos, over toward Lake County here.

But I think in '89, same time that old Devine went out of business, well these fellows just about went out of business too. It --- of course there was a lot of snow, and they wintered these cattle out, and the snow was so deep and laid so long that the cattle just died by the thousands. And it put a lot of them out of the business here. Well Ellen did you find ...

MAN #7: ... belonged to Allied ... Home Creek maybe, I don't know really ... Roaring Springs up here has been headquarters for a good many different outfits. Each one of ... had all these ranches right along underneath here. The Swift and Company had it, and Joe Fine had it for a while. Then the Allied bought it out. There are different variations of the Allied ... several years.

... just the last month or two. All this deeded land along here ... Billy Brezniak it belongs to now. ... Swift and Company for a long time. ... had an interest in the company ... Fine was a partner in it. ... livestock company. And they sold to the Allied. The valley here to our left, there was old town of Blitzen. Duval and a whole bunch of them. They all ... out there in early days. Some of them proved up, and some of them didn't. ... what they call the ... now and again. ... Some Californian bought some of it. Not much water on it. It's pretty dry today.

This here is known as Dry Creek. It's been dry most of the time. I've seen it pretty full. One time I come over that ridge, water was right up the top of it, and I said well, ... I had to stay there or go around, and I took my chance and went across. I came back a month later, and it was still there. ... something the Allied developed here in the last ten years. ... a lot of hay ...

They got ... in these wells. I guess that's the only cow from here to the ... after dark. ... going by where that crested wheat seeding they developed the last few years. They plowed a bunch out of ... and planted crested wheat grass. ... quite well. ... This is the Roaring Springs Ranch here. Headquarters ...

...

WOMAN #2: Is that still true today?

WOMAN #4: Oh yes, uh huh. This just dry ...

MARCUS: ... I think maybe ... Blitzen back across over there. Then we came back to the ranch, and on to Beckley, and then we went out and --- went out north there and a little west to Rock Creek, where the Millers live. Then we came back over to about here, and then we went back through the hills, and we went into Matt Davies place, and then we took the widows on over to see George Hamilton, and he wasn't home. Is that right? That was ... George Hamilton was gone. Yeah, sure did. ... Shoot the gate --- S H O O T ... he just said shoot the gate. Down at the end, then come up here to the "P" Ranch ... up to the "P" Ranch we run on to a couple fellows with a wagon, and so they ... wagon, and get on their horses and go with them. So they did. So when they got to the "P" Ranch here, it branches out ... along to Fort Harney. Then these fellows rode on up there to Home Creek, and shacked up here with Shirk. So, they thought the danger was about over and they came back down here, and then Bill Shirk and brother Dave came with him. One fellow had a team, and the other fellow had a horse. So they

came down and crossed the river there by the "P" Ranch ...

SIDE B

MARCUS: ... so he threw down a shotgun right ... a little lead on these Indians, and he was headed for Home Creek. ... place up here is Roaring Springs. Roaring Springs I think is one of the later places. So ... this Indian was riding a black horse, and he was gaining on him and he said he'd take a shot at him every once in awhile, and all old Bill could do was just lean forward and spur well back, because he had nothing to shoot with. So he decided the next time he shot, his horse was starting to get winded, he decided he would jump off and play dead when the Indian come up to scalp him, why he'd take his chances with him. And went a little ways and he hadn't heard a shot, he looked back and the Indian was off his horse. He didn't know whether the Indian's horse had fell down with him, or what had happened, but anyway, that was the end of the horse race. And he goes on to Roaring --- on to Home Creek. It happened right up, right up on top here. He wasn't shot apparently. He didn't know whether the horse had fallen with him or whether the Indian had just given up the race and had stopped off ... But anyway, however it happened ... I guess.

WOMAN #2: Now we're on the road to Frenchglen after visiting the Roaring Springs Ranch Headquarters.

MARCUS: ... and about the time they started to cross it there why the Indian came out and killed both of them, and burnt the wagon up. Right on the banks of the Blitzen River, just below the "P" Ranch. So that's how they know where it happened, because the wagon was burned there.

WOMAN #2: Now this really looks like desert. High bluffs with a little bit of trees on the

top, and sagebrush down below. Very, very brown, just a tiny bit of green where the sagebrush is, and a few trees. There is a rock fence built up the side of the hill.

MARCUS: ... account of his story, that he encountered these Indians, he took out through --- yeah, they were getting to be ... along in here. And he saw these fellows, didn't much more than get started, until the ... jumped him, and the race was on.

Blitzen Valley, that's the "P" Ranch right directly in front of us.

... a number on them, and they got a bunch of college kids out here running back and forth looking for duck nests out here, running the old ducks off. ... ducks nest that hasn't been hatched out, ... knock off a hundred head of cattle for that reason. That's a fact.

Back in 1935, we had a CC Camp right here, called the Five Mile Camp. They had a two hundred man camp right here. It should be Hog House Springs, but that wasn't quite dignified enough for the government, so they named it Five Mile. Five miles from Frenchglen down here. This is Witzel, where John and Fred Witzel lived. They moved here in 1919. And the refuge moved them out of here a couple years ago, and everything is gone now. They tore the houses down. I think a set of scales and corrals is all that's left. They then moved over to Diamond, and young Freddy bought the Del Witzel outfit ... belongs to ... Thompson.

Marion Louie the Indian woman up town here tells a legend about the Bannock and Paiutes. They were always enemies. ... some time or other they got in a big fight and they just threw rocks and brush at each other until they just about closed the Blitzen, the Blitzen Valley. And that's right here. This is where they threw the --- they threw rocks across there. That's what caused it, the Paiutes and Bannocks fighting.

WOMAN #2: He's talking about ten miles, or a little more past Frenchglen. On the right hand side there is a pile of rocks covered with brush.

MARCUS: Grain Camp here ... early Grain Camp for many, many years. One of the old company places here that they leased out to the now famous L. E. Larsen ... right up here ... This is Grain Camp over here on this side. And it was ... grain. And George Hatt, I know some of you remember George, lived over at Adobe Flat near Riddle Mountain. He came over here and bought a bunch of hogs from Larsen. And they drove them across. Said they had about as much time getting started out with them as Clerf did. And two of those hogs got away over there, and came back to Grain Camp, right where they started from. I wouldn't

think a hog could do that. No. Yeah, George claimed they did. He said they had to pen them up, or he'd probably lost them all, they'd all gone back on him.

... I think they're getting ready to oil this here. The field right in here was called Suicide Swamp. I was talking to some of the refuge personnel here a while back. And ... there's four sandhill cranes ... And they were telling me, they said somebody committed suicide out there one time, and that's the reason they called it Suicide Swamp. And I said, well I think maybe you got that a little wrong. I said it was suicide to go in there at one time. They're all burnt out, burnt out big ... holes and then filled in with silt, and ride a horse off in there, and down in there he went. Lost lots of cows in it, that's the reason we called it Suicide Field. It was not suicide ... in there. Nobody committed suicide. It was suicide to go in all right.

This ridge right over here is where John and Olive Dorsey had a homestead. Clara Dorsey, Clara Clark was raised there. A lot of you remember them. ... Dorseys. She was, huh? Well that's where they homesteaded. The old Buena Vista Ranch, one of the headquarters. One of the headquarters of Pete French. It now belongs to the refuge. And they have a man stationed here most of the time.

This area back over here to our right is called Buena Vista. Called the Buena

Vista Swamp, used to be, they broke it up into

different fields, different names, but many years it was known as Buena Vista Swamp.

WOMAN #2: We're parallel to the refuge now, about oh I don't know how far from Frenchglen.

MARCUS: ... sagebrush fields, there was what they called the little sagebrush field, and then on this side of the Rockford Lane. Now the big sagebrush field goes from there on down almost to the Job Corp. That area down in there.

Up here, just ahead of this car, up on this rim is where John Scharff conked out and fell off on his head last --- well about the first of July, I think. Jessie remembers all about it, and a few more. Thought he died. But he's too tough, he didn't do it. Finally got him loaded in the back of a pickup, and ... up here with Barnes'. ... relative, but anyway he hauled him on into the hospital. John says he doesn't remember anything about the trip. But they got him in there and straightened him up, and he was out ready to fall off again in three or four days.

Ducks back in on the water. Did anyone see him? The little sagebrush field right here. This is Rattlesnake Butte over here in the Rockford, where they used to cross the Blitzen River is right off the far point of that. And we found out the other --- not long ago, that there was a post office there, from 1888 to '92, and was called Blitzen. And a fellow by the name of Howe was the postmaster. And we were trying to locate these various post offices around the country here, and Blitzen was one of them we were wanting to get the information on it. And it was on the Blitzen River; well we didn't think the Blitzen River run on through Catlow Valley. So we started exploring through the archives and found out that there had been two Blitzens listed down here ... in Catlow Valley.

This is Saddle Butte right here, and this is Noreal Flats that we're crossing here.

A fellow had a homestead here by the name of Jim Noreal. And they named it after him. I don't think he had much, but he had a homestead. We're coming up into the saddle up here, in Saddle Butte. A lot of petrified wood taken out of up in there. The rockhounds ... could probably tell you something about that saddle up in there. ... picking up rocks.

... Called Harris Flat down through here, because Bill Harris had a homestead right over here toward this little rock cliff here. And that's where Jinks and all the family would spend a lot of time. They weren't raised here all the time, but they moved on back to The Narrows for school, but they spent a lot of time out here on the homestead. And consequently ... Harris Flat. And then --- well then some of you remember a fellow by the name of Simpson that married George Sizemore's daughter. What was her name? Anyway four of them homesteaded right back up here. And they dug a well, was where the homesteads comes together. Put the buildings around like this. And Simpson fell in the well and died --- and was killed. Right back up there on the edge of that hill. They'll haul water from down in Harris ... there ... well. ... off to your right here, this is the old, the old Job Corp that was put in here in the early sixties. ... I think according to ... state owned and private colleges have taken the thing over and they, they're starting weekly classes here, starting I think about next week-end, during the summer, during the college vacation ... They'll be going here all summer long.

The lake off to our left here, and then if you'll look just a little farther, you'll see the sand reef down there, that separated the lakes here for many, many years. ... the "P" Ranch ... country back here ... across on the sand reef, went on to Burns and Harney City. The bridge wasn't put in down here at The Narrows until '92. Down through here ... high water, for that was the main ... travel through ... Mart Brenton

claimed he kicked the sand reef out and joined the lakes in '81. And it hasn't closed up since then.

This is The Narrows down here ahead of us. Charlie Haines, and Fred Haines came down here in '92, after the bridge was put in and started a store here. Charlie bought him out I think, bought Fred out. And left the store up at Harney, two or three years, such a matter. Charlie died in 1916, and left an estate of \$360,000, made it right here at The Narrows.

And --- maybe it's the ... coming down here, and Albert Hembry came here in '89 and built a store and built a, had the hotel and the livery stable. It's all burnt down now, of course. This little building right here is Charlie Haines' residence. The big stone building here is all that's left of Charlie's store. And then that house up on the hill is the old George Cawfield house. And that other little building there, everybody calls it the jail, but it isn't. It was the place where Charlie kept kerosene or paint, and stuff like that away from his groceries.

This is Sunset Valley out here on the left, through this area here. Malheur Lake is off back in here, but this was all settled up at one time. And this is Dog Mountain right out here. Back out on this side of Dog Mountain here.

I remember hearing Tom Baker one time; somebody said Tom, when did you come to Harney County? Well he said, when I came here, Dog Mountain was just a pup. (Laughter) ... there is a castle, haunted castle, or what all they called it, right back above that clearing right over there. And then that is the Koeneman place there, where the clearing is that you see. ... Sunset Valley is back over here around Dog Mountain is all being put under irrigation, sprinkler irrigation. You'll see a lot of sprinklers going there. ... Jessie ... there was jut a road here weren't they?

JESSIE: I thought so ...

MARCUS: Yeah, ... yeah the school --- here's the old road over here, along the power line. They had one up here at the Berry Corner, you remember, it turned right back toward Dog Mountain, two or three miles and then went straight through to Wright's Point. And the old Sunset Schoolhouse was on that road back over there.

Lyle Hills ... bought it. ... right here, and by the way there was a, there was a post office there too, by the name of Loma. ... had the, had the cemetery. A fellow by the name of Henney had it in his store, had it in his home there for a while. Do you remember that? Homer, Homer, that was ...

... where the power line is there, it goes into Weaver Springs, that's where Jim and Polly Dunn live. There's quite a lot of development going on in there. There's a fellow by the name of Leathers has quite a holding, and doing a lot of work in there. And so is Jim Dunn yet.

This place out here where all these sprinklers are belongs to the people by the name of Gilbert, and Mindrell, I believe. I believe that's his name. They have a, they must have more than one well out there, they sure got lots of water primed. Or else it's a good one.

... going to the left here, as you look, ... coming right up, and comes out the top of this one. And then the last one put in ... And right down here where this new trailer house pulled in. Jessie and I've stayed there overnight lots of times. There was a hotel and a livery stable there. And people by the name of Thomason runs it. Run the place, didn't they Jessie?

... and when you got into the old Model-T stages, and the steepest part of that road run up here to the top. Why you wanted three or four pretty good husky guys with you because you had to push them over the top of the hill there. And you had to have a full gas tank or --- because you had to back up because the gas wouldn't go in the

carburetor. (Laughter) We have both pushed old Model-T Fords on this hill, haven't we Jessie?

... ventured going on back up in through here you see. That's the way we used to go to the old valley ... out of here when we couldn't get through the Hanley Lane. And John lives on the old Baker place, over there where the trees are. And he owns about all that country there now, I think. Yeah, I don't know just what all he owns, but he owns quite a lot. He's a ...

... (Singing)

(END OF TAPE)

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