

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #230 - Sides A & B

Subject: Hale Baird

Place: Baird Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: May 11, 1988

Interviewer: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: No

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and we're visiting with Hale and Ruby Baird at their home in Burns, Oregon, on May 11, 1988.

Okay, we'll start with you Baird, and excuse me if I call you Baird, but that's what I've known you as, all through. (Laughter)

HALE BAIRD: Most of the time.

DOROTHEA: Can you give us your full name and spell it for us please.

HALE: Okay, my name is Emory Hale Baird. The Emory is spelled with an O. E M O R Y, H A L E, B A I R D.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And what year were you born?

HALE: I was born on the 13th of August 1918, in Council Grove, Kansas.

DOROTHEA: And what are your parent's names?

HALE: My parent's names were Jay Ora Baird, and Iva Patton Baird.

DOROTHEA: Can you spell the Patton?

HALE: P A T T O N.

DOROTHEA: Did they ever come to Burns, or how did you come about coming to Harney

County?

HALE: No, when I left home, they --- we had a place in Missouri. And after the war, they sold it and moved to Wenatchee, Washington. They have --- the only time they've ever been to Burns is just for a visit.

DOROTHEA: And then why were you here --- before you came and what was the purpose of your first coming here or ---

HALE: Well, after I graduated from high school, I joined the Civilian Conservation Corp in Missouri. And I, oh in 1938, I decided I wanted to go West like the good book says, and so I asked for a transfer to Oregon. And I arrived here on the 28th of April 1938 on a slow freight train out of Ontario. The day we got here it was windy, and dusty, and cold, and mud was knee deep all the way down Hanley Lane and across Sunset Valley. And if --- there was about a hundred of us, and if we could have, I think we'd all turned around and went back the same day. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: So, you came with the three C --- CCC Camp?

HALE: Right.

DOROTHEA: And did you come into Burns, or did you drop off at Crane, or where was your stopping ---

HALE: No, we came right into Burns.

DOROTHEA: Right into Burns. Because I know earlier there was no train into Burns. And I just didn't know how far it came in.

HALE: Yeah, there was then, yeah.

DOROTHEA: What --- where did you go after you hit here. You said you went down Hanley Lane. So, this took you to where?

HALE: Oh, okay. We was assigned to Sodhouse, which was a camp right at, right at Refuge Headquarters.

DOROTHEA: At what?

HALE: Right at Refuge Headquarters.

DOROTHEA: Refuge.

HALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Now what did you do there? What was the purpose of the camp?

HALE: The camp worked on the Refuge building dikes and built the Cole Island Dam. And oh, they built buildings and roads, and general stuff on the Refuge. All the work was --- when I was there, all the work was on the Refuge.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. So, did you more or less start the Refuge then, is that --- did John Scharff start at the same time, or was he part ---

HALE: No, John was --- John had been there for a year or two. There was --- when I got here the camps were already established and built.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

HALE: There were three of them. One at Five Mile, one at Buena Vista, and one at Sodhouse.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. So, what was your purpose of being there besides --- that was what the CC was --- CCC was, was to ---

HALE: I was, I guess they'd call it the project clerk, for the--- I worked with the, well the CC Camp would have, the army reserve were more or less in control of the personnel while they were in camp. And they would turn them over to the other work personnel of a morning, and they'd work -- - they worked actually under the supervision of the Refuge then during the day. And I was what they called the project clerk.

DOROTHEA: Well at that time, just what was the Refuge doing? Were they gathering acreages and ---

HALE: No, they --- most of the time it was just improving the Refuge. The building of irrigation canals, and dikes, and occasionally we had other work. Like they had a case of botulism out there one year, and the guys were around wading in the mud picking up dead birds for months. But normally it was construction work.

DOROTHEA: Construction work. Okay. Tell me something about the camp itself. What all happened, and maybe you can reminisce some of the interesting things that took place, and some of the people that maybe stayed here.

HALE: Well, there were several of us that stayed here. I can't think of anybody that is still around. Butch Arntz was a member, Frank Kaiser was a member, Don Filteau, Noel Cagle, and Herman Wilkerson, didn't we ---?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: And probably a few more, but that's all I can think of right now. And --- that stayed here, and I think they have all passed away. I don't think there is any of them left anymore.

DOROTHEA: Was Carl Westfall one of them?

HALE: Yes, Carl ---

DOROTHEA: --- members of the ---

HALE: --- Carl was also a member. He was at Sodhouse. Carl was a member at Sodhouse, and he was a commissary or PX clerk or something. He ran a little concession in the rec hall. Don Filteau was a supply sergeant. And Butch and Noel both worked with heavy equipment.

DOROTHEA: Now how many years were you here with the CCC?

HALE: I came here in '38, and in '39 I went to work for the Refuge. And I worked for the Refuge then up until; I think the fall of '40. In '40, I got a better job and moved to Bonneville Dam.

DOROTHEA: And that's where?

HALE: That's in Bonneville, Oregon.

DOROTHEA: In Bonneville.

HALE: And I worked there until I went in the Service. But ---

DOROTHEA: Okay. Then you went into what kind of Service? Were you ---

HALE: I joined the, I joined the Air Force in '42. And went through cadets at Santa Ana, and Tulare, and Victorville. And graduated in the fall of '43, as a bombardier.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Then how did you get back to Burns?

HALE: Well, I got out of the Service and went back to Bonneville, and worked in Bonneville for about three months. And I'd been talking to Jinks Harris, and we decided to buy the hardware store, which was then owned by Charles and Helen Dillman. It was called Dillman Hardware. And we bought it in, I think the 1st of October 1945.

DOROTHEA: Well, where and when did you meet your wife?

HALE: Oh, where else but at a dance. The Stockman's Dance in Crane, in '38, or '39. I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Were you married before you left for the Service then?

HALE: Yes. We got married in May in '42. See, I remember. The 17th. (Laughter) She's looking at me, because our anniversary is next week, and she thinks I'm going to forget. But, it was one of those famous Crane Stockman's Dances that they used to have in those days.

DOROTHEA: And was this something that the boys did most of the time? Was, they had the weekends off and --- so they got to go to the dances, or ---

HALE: Well, most of them had the weekends off, but --- and it was free time, but without any transportation, and thirty miles out of town, you didn't go too much. You --- maybe they'd run a truck to town, for some people that wanted to go to town. And if there was a dance in Crane, they would take a truck to that or something. However, I went to the dance with Jinks and Ethel Harris. And ---

DOROTHEA: Well how did you meet Jinks and Ethel?

HALE: Well, Jinks was a foreman out at the Sodhouse. And they lived, what they called the Springer House, right below the Refuge there, for I don't know how many years. But they were living there when I went to Sodhouse.

DOROTHEA: Oh, so ---

HALE: So, I knew Jinks when I worked there on the Refuge.

DOROTHEA: So Jinks worked with the CCC too?

HALE: Yes. He was the foreman, and so was Marcus Haines. And I think that's the only two foreman that stayed in the country off of the Refuge.

DOROTHEA: Okay. How did Jinks get interested in the hardware business?

HALE: Well, after they closed the camp, he went to work for Helen Dillman at the Dillman Hardware. And Charlie was, I don't remember what was wrong with him, but he couldn't stand the altitude, so he had to leave. He hadn't lived here for quite awhile. And he was living over in the

west side, on the west coast, and she wanted to get rid of the store to get over there.

DOROTHEA: Well, let's back up a little bit, and find out who the girl was that you met and married, and something about her parents and ---

HALE: Okay, well she can tell you better than I can. She was, go ahead. I won't tell them where you were born. Albritton.

RUBY BAIRD: I don't care.

HALE: Albritton, Oregon.

DOROTHEA: She was born in Albritton.

HALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: This is not a place anymore, is it?

HALE: No, it was a town at that time, a post office and all.

DOROTHEA: And what year was that? I hate to say this, but this is ---

RUBY: Well, let's say I was born in 1923.

DOROTHEA: And your name is?

RUBY: Ruby Oard Baird.

DOROTHEA: O A R D.

RUBY: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And your parents were?

RUBY: Bertha Elizabeth Parker, and Charles Sylvester Oard. You want to put Oard on behind that Parker.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And what was your father's name?

RUBY: Charles Sylvester. S Y L V E S T E R.

DOROTHEA: And are they from --- where were they born, and how did they come to Harney County?

RUBY: My mother was born in Lawen, Oregon. And my father was, I think ---

HALE: California.

RUBY: If I had the other book, I'd have it.

DOROTHEA: That's all right.

HALE: That's all right.

DOROTHEA: Was he born in Burns, or around here too?

RUBY: No.

DOROTHEA: He wasn't.

RUBY: I don't have it down here.

DOROTHEA: Well, how did he come about coming to Harney County? (Laughter) Don't know.

No problem. I don't know a lot of this either, so --- (Laughter) Well, do you know how he met your mother, and when?

RUBY: Well, he was working on a ranch. Oh --- and my mother, I guess, was working there too, when they ---

HALE: It had to be around 1900.

DOROTHEA: In the nineteen's someplace.

HALE: It was, it could even have been before that.

RUBY: It's all in the other book.

DOROTHEA: Well, that's all right. But, we would like to know a little bit about you. How did you happen to be at the dance that they were having? Was this one of the popular things that they did, or ---

RUBY: Yeah.

HALE: That was the big event in Crane.

RUBY: Stockman's Dance, yeah, that was one of the big events of the year. And I don't know, we went to nearly every dance. That's about all there was to do in Crane.

DOROTHEA: When --- in the 1930's and early '40's, was Crane still? Or was it, it had hit kind of -  
--

RUBY: Well, at one time Crane was a pretty good-sized town. It burned out twice.

DOROTHEA: Was any special reason, did the Indians give ---

RUBY: I have no idea. But, it burned out twice. And then I guess they decided not to rebuild

again.

HALE: Put it ---

DOROTHEA: Just to move on into Burns.

HALE: Yeah, there was a bank and a hotel, and a store or two. Local bootlegger. (Laughter)

RUBY: Yeah, there was ---

HALE: He's still around. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Kind of like the Narrows and all the rest. Like you say, Albritton, and it's just ---

RUBY: Well, it is now, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Gone to nothing but a schoolhouse. (Laughter)

HALE: Well, when I came ---

DOROTHEA: A piece of ground.

HALE: --- there was one saloon, or tavern at the Narrows.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: Originally, there were four. Four saloons. Can you imagine in the Narrows?

RUBY: Oh yeah. There was, I think it was the Denman Hotel, wasn't it?

HALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: There was a Denman Hotel.

RUBY: And then there was the one that May Gillespie run. It was I think part of a cafe and restaurant.

HALE: Then there was --- didn't Heinz run the grocery store there, or ---

RUBY: Well, Mack Thompson and Eldon Presley and, can't think of the other one that run it. Anyway, there were several people that run it.

HALE: And at one time, it was the end of the railroad too, as I remember it, Crane.

RUBY: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well, that's what --- my dad was here in 1914 and 1928, and he said he had to go clear to Crane to pick up some things from the railroad. So, I didn't know whether ---

RUBY: Yeah, they had a big railroad station, and a big warehouse and stuff there.

HALE: It was actually the end of the line. I mean that's where they shipped the cattle out, and freight mostly came in.

DOROTHEA: Well, something was said also when I talked to Daddy. He said that his dad had run a stage, mail stage to Crane. And that's where he picked up the mail. So, I don't know what year that was, but it was in the later ---

HALE: Teens, wasn't it?

DOROTHEA: --- teens, because Daddy had left for a while then. He rode with him, and so I knew that there must have been just a, you know it must have stopped off there.

HALE: Stage line went through the Narrows, through the Narrows too, and on south. 'Cause that's where Charlie Heinz had the big grocery store. Wasn't it --- not Charlie Heinz ---

DOROTHEA: Haines.

HALE: Haines, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. I know Charlie Haines had one out there. He also --- well there was three Haines grocery stores. One was at Harney, and one was at the Narrows, and one was at Princeton, or something like that. Each had brothers running it, I guess.

HALE: Yeah, yeah. Just the last of it just fell down last year or two, the old stone; part of the store.

DOROTHEA: All these years I've lived here; I've never been around to these historical sites. But -- back to you, Ruby. Can you tell me something about your family? Do you have sisters or brothers, or ---?

HALE: (Laughter)

RUBY: Yes, there was ten in our family. There were seven girls, and three boys.

DOROTHEA: Are any of them living around Burns or ---

RUBY: Yes. Ilda, who is married to Frank Huffman. Ethel is married to Leo Wickizer.

DOROTHEA: And she was at one time married to Jinks Harris.

RUBY: Yes. Uh huh. And of course, myself. And that's ---

DOROTHEA: And you're the only three ---

RUBY: Around here.

DOROTHEA: --- here now.

RUBY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Are the rest of your brothers and sisters living, or are they all passed away or ---

RUBY: No, I've got --- there are three out of the ten that are gone. But I've got a sister in California, and a sister in Monmouth, Oregon. One in Lebanon, Oregon, and then I've got a brother

---

HALE: Albany.

RUBY: --- in Albany, Oregon.

HALE: That's enough. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Okay, you mentioned your name is Oard. Or your father's name was Oard. Was you any relation to Clara Oard and her husband Jim, James?

RUBY: Yes, Jim Oard was my father's cousin.

DOROTHEA: Cousin. So, there's a relative there?

RUBY: Yeah. We're related.

DOROTHEA: You're related. Okay. Barbara ---

HALE: I'll say.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell me something about where you went to school, and what was school like?

RUBY: Well, I started in Crane, and I graduated in Crane. Just like any other country school, I guess.

DOROTHEA: Tell me where Albritton was located. How many miles this or that side of Crane?

HALE: About five miles this side of Crane, it was right by Saddle Butte there, or close to Saddle Butte. We went down there a couple three years ago, and you could, then you could still find the foundation of some of the buildings and stuff. But it's been under water for so long now, I don't know if you can find anything or not.

DOROTHEA: Well, they said in the paper they're bringing up a lot of things, so ---

HALE: They say the hunting is good for arrowheads, if you don't get caught. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Don't get caught though.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Was Crane a boarding school at that time, or did you just go ---

RUBY: Yes, it was a boarding school.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

RUBY: You know, kids from all over the country.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

RUBY: Children that came around. And most of them, well they all boarded there, and then they went home; a lot of them went home weekends.

BARBARA: Uh huh. About how many were in school at that time? Was it a big school, or ---?

RUBY: It wasn't a real big school, no.

DOROTHEA: It wasn't a one room class like most of the smaller schools were though, it was bigger. I mean it had special classrooms, or ---

RUBY: Well, after you got in high school, yes.

DOROTHEA: Oh, grade school was just the ---

RUBY: Just regular, yeah.

DOROTHEA: --- first through sixth, or whatever.

HALE: Of course, that school is all burned down now.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Okay. Did you work with the CC, or did you work?

RUBY: No.

DOROTHEA: You didn't work?

RUBY: I didn't work any before I was married.

DOROTHEA: So, after you met, how long was it before you decided that you were going to get married, and he was leaving town? (Laughter)

RUBY: Well, I decided I'd finish high school. And then we, see we graduated I believe it was in April, and then I was married in May.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

RUBY: And then we went to Bonneville.

DOROTHEA: And then, so you went with him when he joined the Service. And so, you got to see a little bit of the country.

RUBY: Yes, I went. We was in California, and Sioux City, Iowa.

HALE: Texas.

RUBY: Texas. I think that was it, wasn't it?

HALE: Pretty much.

DOROTHEA: Were any of your children, were they born out of Burns, or were they all born here?

RUBY: No, they were all born here. And of course, Phyllis, my oldest, she was I believe four months old when --- either three or four months old when Hale came home from Germany.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

RUBY: And then of course he went on to, I believe it was California, or Texas. And of course, we followed.

DOROTHEA: How many children do you have?

RUBY: We have four.

DOROTHEA: Four children.

RUBY: Two girls, and two boys.

DOROTHEA: What's their names?

RUBY: Phyllis.

DOROTHEA: P H Y ---

RUBY: Yes.

DOROTHEA: --- I S S ?

RUBY: P H Y L L I S.

DOROTHEA: L L. Okay.

RUBY: Dick, Jim.

HALE: James.

RUBY: Or James, and Beverly.

DOROTHEA: Are any of them still living in Burns?

RUBY: Dick is.

DOROTHEA: Dick is. Well, how many grandchildren do you have then?

RUBY: Oh, golly.

HALE: Eleven.

RUBY: Eleven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

DOROTHEA: You already have great grandchildren. Oh --- (Laughter)

HALE: That date you?

DOROTHEA: That dates me. (Laughter) Let's kind of go on to, we've kind of covered the three C's. Let's get into the hardware store. And you can tell me something about it.

HALE: Well, we bought it in October in '45. And Jinks and I ran it then until he got sick, which was 1970, if I recollect. And he wound up with cancer, and so Ruby and I bought his interest out in '70. And then we ran it for, well we ran it for a number of years, and then the boys came in with us and we changed the name from Harris Hardware to Baird's Hardware.

DOROTHEA: Do you know what year that was?

RUBY: You've got it down there.

HALE: '72. And then I --- we ran it until I retired in 1980, and left Dick and Jim to run the store. So, I guess I put about thirty five years there.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember what it was like when you first bought the store, compared to how it was when you retired?

HALE: The store was kind of old-fashioned. It was wooden floor, and wooden shelves. When we bought it, there were just seven lights in the whole store. They hung down from a chain, with a big bulb on the end. And that's all the light there was in the place. And the building itself had been a hardware store since 1916. Originally it was I. S. Geer. And what was then the Corbett Drug and our store was all one big store. And it had a balcony around upstairs. So, he had hardware downstairs, and Levis and clothing stuff around on the balcony. After, I don't know what year, but along in there somewhere Ernest Musick and Allie Dillard started the Chevrolet Agency in what

was then Corbett Drug Store. And they sold, they were the first General Motors Agency in Burns, and they sold cars out of that. And then I think Orville came from John Day in the late '30's, '36 or '37, and then started the Corbett Drug Store in what used to be the Chevrolet Agency. And so, in the same building, Corbetts were on one side, and we were on the other.

BARBARA: Was the, was your hardware store always in the same building?

HALE: Yes, always in the same building. Originally, when Geer had it, it was in the whole building, and then when Dillman bought it from Geer, they had already moved the Chevrolet Agency in the other side. So, there was, up until --- I don't remember what year they remodeled it all into one store, but it was always two there. When Corbetts moved across the street, why then we moved into where Corbetts had been too.

DOROTHEA: Would that have been in the '50's?

HALE: No.

DOROTHEA: Because I remember ---

HALE: No, it would have been in the early '70's.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that late.

HALE: Right about that, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Because I remember Corbetts being there for ages, and ages. But I was thinking it was just right after I got married. So ---

HALE: When Orville came to town, there were two other drug stores in town. There was the Home Drug, and the Reed's Drug Store. And that made three drug stores, and now we don't have any. Progressing backwards.

DOROTHEA: They also had a fountain in there. Can you remember when they took that out?

HALE: They never did take it out.

DOROTHEA: They never did.

HALE: It was --- the fountain originally was up in the front, on the left just as you went in the door. And when Orville remodeled, I don't remember when it was, had to been '50's or something, why they moved the lunch counter and the fountain clear to the back.

DOROTHEA: Oh, clear to the back. That's right.

HALE: And originally there was a fountain in front on the left, and then there were three or four booths along there. Tables and chairs and things. And they took those out, and then when they remodeled, they moved the fountain at the back and the lunch counter.

DOROTHEA: That's right, I remember now. See, you're bringing back memories to me too, because I'd forgotten about the fountain in the back. So, when they moved across the street to where Corbett Drug was in the later years, did they take all of their fountain equipment with it, or did you have a sale on it, or ---

HALE: Well, no they moved all the usable equipment, and they put it in that little lunch deal in the back of the store there. The only thing I think they left, maybe one counter or something like that. But that was all.

DOROTHEA: And that gave you room to move then into a larger area.

HALE: Yeah, we took the partition out of the center, and it just give us twice as much room.

DOROTHEA: Twice as much space. So, did you increase the size of your inventory? Or did you add on a different ---

HALE: Yeah, about --- we probably increased it about, oh, five or eight times the amount of merchandise when we opened up the other side.

DOROTHEA: This was when times were better, I think. (Laughter)

HALE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: We had some good times and bad times. Can you remember some of the most distinguishable times that you had? And some of the --- maybe some of the better selling items that you had. Starting from the time you started, did you sell western gear? Did you sell just hardware?

HALE: Well, we sold hardware and tack, and sporting goods. And I can remember back then that ammunition came in wooden boxes. And you bought --- things change. You bought ammunition for the fall; you bought it in the winter, and got it in the winter for the next fall. And back in those days we would buy horseshoes by the ton. And now they buy a keg now and then, or something. But we did, we'd buy three, or four, five ton of horseshoes at a time. And barbed wire, of course all

the barbed wire came in on railroad. So, it was --- and even at one time we sold farm equipment in there. We sold Case farm equipment for a number of years, 'til Oard bought it out at Buchanan.

But it's changed a lot. I mean, when Dillman's had it, Helen ran it. And she didn't have too much hardware. She liked houseware, and so she bought crystals, and goblets, and nice China, and real nice stuff. But mostly she was more interested in housewares, than she was hardware. But there was at that time, of course you didn't find hardware in a grocery store like you do now. If you wanted light bulbs, you went to a hardware store. If you wanted housewares or a toaster or something, why about the only ones that sold it were hardware. If you wanted aspirin or something, you had to go to the drug store, because nobody else sold it. There was a --- with a few exceptions, some of the general mercantile stores, like Frenchglen and like they had at Crane, why they sold it out of necessity, because they was the only store there. But in Burns at that time, there were only two grocery stores. Nobody was open on Sunday, everything was closed. When the high school had a football game, everybody in town closed and went to the ball game. And now you couldn't even think of getting them to.

DOROTHEA: Well, this is ---

HALE: But it was quite different.

DOROTHEA: These were some of the changes that we've noticed even in my growing up, you know. It was, like you say, nobody was open on Sunday. And everybody went to church and did their own thing. Well, it was more or less a family day on Sunday. Where today we don't have that kind of thing. I don't know if our families really know what family days are. But, some of the changes then that you have noticed has been going from a hardware store, really then into the kitchenware, and then into the sportswear, and sports doings.

HALE: Well ---

DOROTHEA: As well as competing with the other, the grocery stores.

HALE: Yeah, of course our grocery stores always sold housewares. And a certain amount of wearing apparel. They would sell maybe tin pants or special work clothes, or things of that nature; which at that time Penney's was the only clothing store in town. And Penney's didn't really carry

too much of it. But they were, you didn't find it like now, where you can walk into a drug store and buy a pair of Levis and a lawnmower, and a few more things. They just didn't sell things like that. I don't know, it was quite noticeable, the places that you can find hardware now. Almost, even little convenience stores carry a certain amount of it.

BARBARA: Was the hardware trucked in mostly, or did it come in by train, or ---

HALE: Our hardware, since I was there, all came in by truck. Back in the days when Oltman ran the truck, there wasn't even a Bend-Portland truck then. Just Oltman was about the only truck in --- Then Reinertson started the, actually started out as just Burns to Bend. And then he wound up Bend-Portland I guess was the name of it.

DOROTHEA: Now who, Reinertson?

HALE: Rudy, Rudy.

DOROTHEA: Rudy.

DOROTHEA: The one that had the shoe store?

HALE: He started that. Uh huh. He started the trucking business, competitioned Oltman's. And then he went into the bread business. And then he went in the shoe business.

DOROTHEA: Bread business.

HALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: You mean he hauled ---

HALE: He distributed bread for several years with ...

DOROTHEA: Then he went into the shoe business?

HALE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So, he was a tradesman. (Laughter) He just went from one business to another then. I didn't even know that. So ---

HALE: Yeah, he --- at one time we had a bakery across from the Palace Cafe where the craft shop is. And Howard Maw ran the bakery. And all the bread in town, he distributed. He got some of it shipped in, and he baked some. And one morning he just decided anybody in town wanted bread, they could come to the bakery and buy it. So, he didn't deliver to any of the stores. So, Rudy

started a bread route, and delivered bread in town.

DOROTHEA: And this was where more or less the Alpine Creamery has picked it up then from.

HALE: Yes. I don't ---

DOROTHEA: Something like that.

HALE: Yes, or Harold [Lloyd Larsen] Larson delivered bread around town for --- Rudy sold it to somebody else, and they delivered bread for a number of years.

DOROTHEA: Huh. Well, when you first started the store, what were some of the businesses that were neighbors to you on Main Street at the time?

HALE: The people that were in business then, I don't think there is a sole left on Main Street now.

There was, Reed's had the drug --- one drug store. And Welcome's had the Home Drug, and the liquor store. There wasn't any Ereno's. What was the old boys name that had the clothing store?

He wound up being the J.P. for a while. And Penney's was here. Of course, the Arrowhead Hotel was there. And Gale Shook had the jewelry store, in the same block with the Arrowhead. And where the department store is now, was just a vacant lot.

RUBY: And we had the Welcome Hotel.

HALE: Yeah, Arrowhead.

RUBY: Burned.

HALE: And the bank was ---

DOROTHEA: ...

HALE: U. S. Bank ---

DOROTHEA: Arrowhead.

HALE: Had burned. Well, originally it was the Welcome Hotel, it burnt in '37. Uh huh.

RUBY: That Welcome Hotel was clear down ---

HALE: Well, but it burnt in '37. It was down on the corner where Knieriem is. And Ellis Bennett had the Oldsmobile Agency where Standard Station is. And there was a beer joint where the Hilander Cafe is. And there was nothing across from it, for a number of years. Between the Hilander and the theater, that was a vacant lot. And then they built the C & B Building there, oh

along in the '50's, I suppose.

RUBY: What was the automobile dealer that was down where Smyth's Grocery is?

HALE: There wasn't, there was nothing there then. He built it there afterwards.

RUBY: Oh, he did.

HALE: Then where First National Bank was, it was a vacant building. And Wenzels had a grocery store on the corner. And then there was a dime store, or Ed Eberley's Ten Cent Store. And then the Burns Times-Herald office which was pretty close to where it is now.

RUBY: The Nook was in there.

HALE: No, The Nook was back where the First National is. And then there was a little grocery store there. And then where Jordan's is was nothing but a Richfield Gas Station. And Safeway is where the old Corbett Drug, Corbett Drug Store. And next to it was Chet Felt had a jewelry. And then there was a Firestone. And then the U. S. National Bank.

DOROTHEA: Now was the U. S. National Bank always where it is now?

HALE: Yes, but it was only half as big. They tore down the --- where the, well Bill Bradeen had an office there. And before Bill, it was the Firestone Store. And they tore that out and rebuilt U. S. National there. And of course, then, north of there the Arrowhead Hotel. And then up on the next corner was Cecil Bennett, the Bennett Garage.

RUBY: Well, about that time, wasn't --- had that meat shop.

HALE: That was on the other, Schroeder had a meat market across the street where ---

DOROTHEA: I remember the kid's name was Dick. But what was the father's name?

HALE: Who?

DOROTHEA: Schroeder.

HALE: Well ---

DOROTHEA: I guess there was a father and son.

HALE: There was, gosh I can't even think of his name. But he ran a meat market there for years. I guess the building now where Sprouse Reitz is, was, wasn't there at the time. It was, Ray Voegtly had a furniture store in that area. And then I forgot what, then the Odd Fellows Building what was

in there. Sandy Andersen had the shoe shop and saddle shop there. But there was something else next to it. And then Penney's. And the Ford Garage is --- was there forever I guess, on the corner.

DOROTHEA: Well, how long was the, was it The Heather that, oh, what was her name? Miller, she had for a long time that dress shop, where Micheline's is now.

RUBY: Was that Evelyn, Evelyn Wall [Ruth Miller]?

HALE: Yes, but way back in the '30's there wasn't one there. There was a men's clothing store kind of where --- gosh I don't even know who is there now, ain't that awful? Well, where Randy had his --- where it used to be. Okay --- Reed's had an office and art shop there. And at one time Western Auto was right on the other side of Reed's. And Tiller's had the grocery store where Nyleen's were, in that vacant spot.

DOROTHEA: Plube Tiller.

RUBY: Yeah, Plube instead of Evelyn.

HALE: And then of course Alice has been on the corner forever.

DOROTHEA: Well, I remember something about ---

HALE: She's the only one left.

DOROTHEA: --- Alice said something about there was a men's ---

HALE: Schwartz's. Schwartz.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HALE: And it was down the street south from Alice's down along there. It was just a small building.

DOROTHEA: There by I. S. Geer's or ---

HALE: No. The hardware was on the corner, and then there was --- well, when I came here, there was Corbett's and then the hardware and then Reed's, and Schwartz was I believe in there somewhere. And then it wound up being Western Auto when ---

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: --- when they brought Western Auto back.

DOROTHEA: Okay, okay, then I know approximately where it is then.

HALE: And the Ranch Supply was moved where they are now about the time I came here. They at one time were somewhere about where Arlie Oster is.

DOROTHEA: Ranch Supply was?

HALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Humm. And that --- Buck Oltman now, he used to have the Ranch Supply.

HALE: Well, okay. He got it from Bob and --- shot himself in the leg, lost a leg.

RUBY: Carlton?

HALE: Huh? No, no.

RUBY: Oh, uh ---

HALE: Evelyn and ---

RUBY: Bob Carlson.

DOROTHEA: Carlson.

HALE: Carlson.

DOROTHEA: Carlson had that store first?

HALE: Uh huh. Him and Grover ---

RUBY: Jameson.

HALE: Jameson owned it. (Corrected to B. B. Clark)

DOROTHEA: Humm.

HALE: And then Bob ... Then Bob sold it to Buck Oltman. And Buck had it for quite a few years.

Bud Eshelby was working for the railroad department. And then, and then Bud and Sue owned it for years. I think Bud finally bought Sue out, I don't know. But ---

DOROTHEA: Sue?

HALE: Oltman.

DOROTHEA: Sue Oltman.

RUBY: What year was it that --- wasn't it the Bucket of Blood, isn't that what they called it, across the street? (Laughter)

HALE: Oh, yeah. I don't know.

DOROTHEA: (Laughter)

RUBY: And ---

DOROTHEA: What was that, a saloon?

RUBY: Yeah.

HALE: It was a real dive. (Laughter) Applegate.

RUBY: Garland, Garland wasn't always Garland.

HALE: No, that was, Bardwell had that. ... and title office in the bank building. That was originally a bank.

DOROTHEA: The First National I think I read someplace.

HALE: I don't have any idea. I hadn't --- some of their, at the store --- the old office equipment out of it.

DOROTHEA: That tape that we were doing the other day, it talked about Francis Griffin.

HALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And it said about him bringing in the sand lily seeds and putting them in that First National Bank safe in there. And I was wondering if it is still there. (Laughter)

HALE: No. But I guess Alice is the only one on Main Street ---

DOROTHEA: That has been there ---

HALE: --- that was there when we, when we opened up in '45.

DOROTHEA: She's a lucky lady.

HALE: There's nobody ---

DOROTHEA: Survived this ---

HALE: There's nobody else up and down the street.

DOROTHEA: Nope. It's all changed since I've been married. And that's been a long time.

RUBY: And right around the corner from her was a ---

HALE: Was an office.

DOROTHEA: Donegan.

HALE: No, Pat. Yeah, Pat Donegan.

RUBY: Donegan, and then --- what's the gal's name that's up here on the hill? Her husband died?

HALE: But City Hall was back of it, in those days.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: The jail was in the basement. And old man Lanfear had a second-hand store right across the street from City Hall.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. So, there's been a lot of changes. A lot of changes, big changes, really in just the thirty-five, forty years that you were in business.

HALE: About the only new, about the only new buildings on Main Street is the department store. And they remodeled Jordan's where the service station used to be. And the old ruins of the Welcome Hotel --- Jim McCulloch rebuilt that, and that is where Knieriem is now. Had an apartment upstairs.

DOROTHEA: Okay now, The Central is still --- The Central Hotel or something, isn't it?

HALE: Ebar's.

DOROTHEA: It's there at that time?

HALE: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: So, it's been in business quite a long time.

HALE: And of course, the Arrowhead Hotel is gone.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: And then ---

RUBY: And then what --- didn't a long time ago the one down below the hospital there, didn't that ---

HALE: That used to be ---

RUBY: Was that the Commercial?

HALE: No.

RUBY: Or the Star, or something?

HALE: Might have been the Star, or something. Felix and Cecilia Urizar ran it. And then there's the one now where --- across from the Safeway parking lot.

DOROTHEA: That's the Plaza or ---

HALE: Plaza, or something.

DOROTHEA: --- or something like that.

HALE: The Central.

RUBY: Isn't that the same one? Yeah.

HALE: Yeah, it's been there.

RUBY: Right across from Safeway. Yeah.

HALE: That's been there.

DOROTHEA: That's the one that Urizar's had, I think, wasn't it?

RUBY: Uh huh.

HALE: And where Safeway parking lot is, why there was Dick Clark, and Homer Morrison, and oh, had the Pontiac deal in there.

DOROTHEA: Roy Johnson.

HALE: And Roy Johnson.

## SIDE B

HALE: ... advertising then, all there was, was newspaper until long in the '50's I think KRNS moved to town with Jim Ward and --- Humm.

DOROTHEA: Howard McDonald.

HALE: Yeah, McDonald. Howard McDonald. And they had an office up in the --- they started up in the old Brown Building up there is where their headquarters were.

DOROTHEA: About where the UPS is right now.

HALE: Uh huh. Yeah, right in there.

BARBARA: Did you have weekly sales, or promotions like that? Or did you pretty much just have regular things all the time?

HALE: Well, they had, we had a few that were pretty well standard throughout the town, but there weren't very many.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

HALE: Most people just did their own, and that was it.

BARBARA: I know it seems like some stores now have a special sale, every week it's something. And I know Alice Johnston said she does one twice a year, and when she has a sale, she has a sale.

HALE: She did. And old man Whitney had the clothing store. And then Ereno's bought it. And then they moved it over where it's at now. And then they, then Jess and them built where the Burns Department Store is, and put the Burns Department Store there.

RUBY: Well, where was Al Dillard?

HALE: Who?

RUBY: Al Dillard. Did he run a shop or --- along there somewhere?

HALE: Oh. Uh, that was the other, that was the Burns Hardware.

RUBY: Okay.

HALE: Dillard and Bob Clay started the Burns Hardware, and it's up, oh it's part of that deal where body shop and stuff is now.

RUBY: I thought it was about where Sears was.

HALE: It was, that's where the furniture store was too, originally up there.

RUBY: Well, Harvey Lehr had a furniture shop up there.

HALE: Yes, but before he had it, it belonged to another guy when I came here. And then Harvey bought it, and then Harvey sold it to Hobe.

BARBARA: How did you --- did you have much trouble getting supplies in? And where did you get orders from?

HALE: Uh ---

BARBARA: Did they come out of Portland, or Boise, or ---

HALE: No, most of our hardware came out of Baker. At that time Basche-Sage Hardware was the largest hardware distributor in the northwest, and they were in Baker. They had about, oh golly, they had an awful crew of salesmen covered a lot of territory. And with a few exceptions, everything came in on truck. If you, you could order a carload shipment of barbed wire or pipe or

something like that, come in on rail. Most of the farm equipment came by rail. But just your general supplies, hardly anything else.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

HALE: At that time, they used to sell coal. And coal of course came on rail. And you can't buy coal in Harney County for the last twenty years.

BARBARA: Did you have trouble getting your supplies at all? Did you have back orders, like you did in recent years?

HALE: No, in those days you could pretty well get things.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

HALE: The only time we had trouble getting supplies was after the war, of course. It was pretty hard to buy anything.

BARBARA: Were you rationed pretty much during the war?

HALE: I wasn't here, during the war.

BARBARA: Oh, that's right.

HALE: They were, you couldn't buy, you couldn't buy a washing machine or a refrigerator, or stove, or --- in town, period.

BARBARA: Oh, my.

HALE: There just weren't any. And you couldn't, of course you couldn't buy a car either.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think my dad bought one of those. There were two cars that came to town, and it was probably in about 1941, and he bought one of them for a school bus. So, that was from Cecil Bennett.

HALE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: They didn't have any for a long time then afterwards. 'Cause I think he drove that same car for about five years as a school bus. And then he traded and got one of, one of the others, that I think there was four or five came in. And he got --- and they were the same identical model.

HALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: They were just different color, you know but ---

HALE: Yeah, they didn't change them much for a few years. There wasn't any need to. They could sell all they make. (Laughter) They could of all been black, and they would have sold them all.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HALE: Like Henry Ford's. No, there was, they were that type of thing, and you couldn't buy --- it was kind of amusing, we'd have somebody come in and say I'm looking for a refrigerator. We haven't got one. Well, you got one down to the freight company, just come in today. And there --- somebody was working for the company, and they'd call them up and tell them. So, they'd come in thinking they would get it. What they didn't know was that everybody in town had a list. It didn't do any good. And we did lose a few things. Appliances and guns were hard to get. And they seemed to disappear occasionally when, where they were shipped before they got to where they were going. Well, they couldn't buy them, I guess it was --- only way to steal them maybe. But we lost, we lost a number of things that were shipped and never did get here.

BARBARA: What about repairs then, did you service stoves and refrigerators yourself there?

HALE: Yeah, uh huh. We did for as long as we had them.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How about the farm machinery? Did you have repairs for the old tractors, Case tractors?

HALE: Uh, surprisingly enough, we carried quite a stock of parts for --- not for the old ones so much, because we had Case equipment. And at that time, the only Case equipment that had ever been in this country were combines. And we had combine parts, but then there was no tractors prior to that around here.

DOROTHEA: Well, now did you sell ---

HALE: Outside of John Deere.

DOROTHEA: --- also sell mowing machines and things.

HALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Seems to me like I remember seeing mowing machine set up in the back part of your ---

HALE: Yeah, we sold, we sold lot of hay rakes, and big old twenty-one-foot rakes and ...

DOROTHEA: I think that was when my dad first got his first one, you sold him.

HALE: Yeah, they were the only ones around at that time.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: We used, we used to pick them up in Salt Lake City and sell them.

DOROTHEA: Did you also sell what was the first; I'll call it a Farmhand, to come to Burns?

HALE: Huh uh, huh uh.

DOROTHEA: You didn't sell that?

HALE: I think, I think that came from John Deere ...

DOROTHEA: That was John Deere.

HALE: No, we weren't --- And then, and then Shepherd and then Craddock, Craddock had retired ranching, and Shepherd got kicked out of the bank. And they, they started the Craddock and Shepherd Company, which is where the City Hall is now. They built that.

DOROTHEA: And they sold International ---

HALE: International Harvester.

DOROTHEA: --- Harvester. Yeah. I remember some of that. Just, just ---

HALE: And then there were three lumberyards then too. There was Burns Lumber, and Copeland Lumber, and what was Hamilton Lumber. Which is where Revak is now. They call it Burns Lumber Supply, or something.

DOROTHEA: When it was Miller Lumber for a while.

HALE: Yes. It was Hamilton to start with, and then it went to Miller Lumber. And then they closed it up.

DOROTHEA: Was Copeland's always where it is now? As far as ---

HALE: Yes, but not as ---

DOROTHEA: --- you can remember.

HALE: Of course, they rebuilt it entirely. On the corner there, it used to be a service state where Copeland's are. And then they were --- and for a long time, the manager lived upstairs above what was the service station.

DOROTHEA: And that was, well no, Leonard Branson lived up there.

HALE: Yeah. And then right next to it was a, Mel Kundert had a skating rink and a dance hall.

RUBY: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Who?

HALE: Mel Kundert.

DOROTHEA: Kundert.

HALE: And he lived in a little house right behind where, where the place is now.

RUBY: Out by the lumberyard isn't it?

HALE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Was that what they called the Tonawama Hall, or something like that?

HALE: No, the Tonawama Hall is where Bennett Motel is, or up ---

DOROTHEA: The new Burns Apartments.

HALE: Yeah. That was the Tonawama Hall. And when I came here, there was offices, there was the Telephone Company and Grover Jameson, and Kriesien, Casey and Kriesien had law offices in it. And the upstairs was entirely full of offices for the Division of Grazing. And Paul Stafford was the head man of it. That's before there was a BLM.

DOROTHEA: Taylor Grazing.

HALE: And I don't remember what was where the One Stop is. I don't think there was anything there.

BARBARA: What did you do for credit in those days? Did you carry your customers? Did they have charge accounts?

HALE: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did they pay cash or ---

HALE: Almost all of them were charge accounts in those days. Very few, oh, it would be for small

purchases only. But very few, pretty near all charge accounts.

DOROTHEA: How did they pay their bills? Were they yearly payment type people? Or did they come in and make --- work for you, or---

HALE: Mostly, mostly were thirty-day accounts. But a lot of them, a lot of the ranchers, you just carried until they sold their cattle in the fall.

DOROTHEA: Today, a person couldn't do that.

HALE: You can't, you couldn't --- We, the whole structure was different. We used to buy merchandise for fall, and we didn't pay for it until, oh well --- until normally, well like hunting goods you would buy, you wouldn't pay for them until November. Now you either pay for them when you get them, or before. In a lot of cases, before you get them. In those days, you didn't. But they don't, they just --- computers don't work that way anymore. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well I don't, I also don't believe that people are as trustworthy, I think. And that's what's happened to our ---

HALE: No, you --- and grocery stores the same way.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: I expect some grocery stores wouldn't take in twenty dollars in a day. It was all, all charge. I know we used to. Tiller probably charged more than anybody in town. I guess Safeway you paid for them, but other than that, was the only one.

DOROTHEA: Well, my in-laws had charge accounts there at Richey's and Tiller's when they were there. Gee, they would pay for them twice a year. And that's all they ever paid. But it finally got to the point where they were getting a monthly statement.

HALE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: You know Mom would go in and charge groceries, and she never ever knew what she owed. Because, of course in those days, you know, you could get a lot of groceries for not so very much.

HALE: Yeah, you couldn't carry twenty dollars worth out. You had to have help. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Right. Now you can carry it out in a small sack.

HALE: Small paper sack. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: ...

HALE: But the same thing was true of everything then.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: I mean --- gosh when we first got married, if our grocery bill run thirty dollars for a month, we'd had a lot of company or something. (Laughter) Can you imagine?

DOROTHEA: Well, that's like Clinton and I when we first got married, you know. I mean we started out and our wages was forty-five dollars a month.

HALE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: So, I mean, and that wasn't all that --- we've only been married thirty-two years. So, you know, I mean that wasn't that long ago. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did you have gardens and things at your home to help out with?

HALE: When I was a kid we did. But a garden in Harney County ain't that successful.

BARBARA: Leaves a lot to be desired, doesn't it?

HALE: Some years it's wonderful, and then you go for years without one.

DOROTHEA: My daughter-in-law has more patience than I do. I gave up a long time ago.

HALE: I really think that gardening, unless you have the time and like to do it, is a waste of time and money in this country.

DOROTHEA: I do too. I do too. She loves to do it, so she continues.

HALE: You have to, to be successful at it. Look at across the street here, Mrs. Frost.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

HALE: Her, her garden, she has a nice garden.

DOROTHEA: Alice Shepard is one of them too. She, she doesn't try to grow the cucumbers, and cantaloupe like Lois does, but she does every year. She's gotten, since she broke her foot though, she's kind of slowed down on her gardening. But ---

HALE: Some of the best gardens in the country used to be down by Potter Swamp.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: And they, right, just up above those hot springs. And he used to have a, he used to sell produce around. He had a good garden. And then of course Bob ---

DOROTHEA: Davis.

HALE: --- Davis had that deal out there by the hot springs. He raised tomatoes and stuff.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. You were in the National Guard for a number of years. Can you tell some of the things that went on there?

HALE: Well, we, there were four of us that started that. There was Frank Kaiser, and Roy Swindlehurst, and Jack Pierce and I. And we, we were successful in talking the State into giving us a unit here in May of '49. And we organized a unit here with Frank and Roy and I, and thirteen enlisted men. And originally, and then we grew to --- oh by the time Clinton was in, we had about eighty people in it at that time. And we've been almost everything under the sun. We were coast artillery, field artillery, anti-aircraft artillery. We had toad-nineties, and toad-forties, and self-propelled forties. And tanks, and I don't know what all. We were quite a --- and at one time had a lot of equipment here. We had, we had about eighty men and we had about forty trucks, and I don't know what all. We had, I think when we were the largest, I think we had four full-time personnel that worked at the armory all the time. We had a caretaker, administrative man, and an armament man, and electronic person. And we were --- I was in it 'til '49 until 1965, when I had to retire. But ---

DOROTHEA: Did you ever get called out on active duty to where you all had to ---

HALE: No, at one time, at one time we were on orders to go to Korea. And fortunately for us, there was a real ambitious colonel in Washington that wanted to go. And he'd managed to get us bumped off, and he took his outfit, which was fine.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember what year that was?

HALE: Oh, it was in early '50's. Been about, well it would have been about 1950 --- '50. Had to be along in '51 because it was about the time that Roy and Frank and I went to Ashland to, in fact we went over to take an exam before we went to Korea. And Roy and Frank were both killed in a car wreck. That would have been in '50, wasn't it?

DOROTHEA: That was Kaiser, K A I ---

HALE: K A I S E R.

DOROTHEA: Roy Swindlehurst. I know how to spell it, but Barbara might not. S W I N D L E H  
U R S T

HALE: S W I N D L E H U R S T.

DOROTHEA: And you were coming back from a training or ---

HALE: We went over, no we went over to take an exam, and then we went out to inspect some trucks and stuff, and coming back from the Camp White, why we had a car wreck, and Roy and Frank were in the front seat and --- The warrant officer by the name of Rude was with me in the back seat, and Frank and Roy were both killed. And Rude wound up with a broken wrist.

RUBY: He wound up black and blue all over.

HALE: (Laughter) I was ---

DOROTHEA: He was lucky.

HALE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I remember that.

HALE: I think that was the last of my nine lives. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That was when you got smart, I think. (Laughter) The guard was called out in --- it was after Clinton, and I was married. So, it had to been '57 or '58. I don't remember what for, was, but you probably remember. It was either a training session that they had called suddenly because they come out and got Clinton out of the middle of a hay field.

HALE: Wouldn't have been for a forest fire, or something?

DOROTHEA: I don't know, I can't remember. I know they come out and got him out in the middle of the hay field.

HALE: Yeah, we put a cook crew, and furnished food for fire fighters one year. And I don't know --- Clinton might have called out on that possibly, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: I thought they were stupid to come clear out there to get him, but they did.

HALE: Oh, they go further than that. (Laughter) They go further than that.

DOROTHEA: But summers you spent every year ---

HALE: Two weeks.

DOROTHEA: --- two weeks.

HALE: Uh huh. We went two weeks, what they called summer camp. We went to Camp Rilea, which is out of Seaside most of the time. We went several years to Yakima, at the army firing range. And then we went two or three years to Boise, Gowan Field.

DOROTHEA: Do they do that still, or ---

HALE: Yeah, except now, now they go to places like Vietnam, or Korea, or Germany, or Nicaragua, or ---

DOROTHEA: For two weeks?

HALE: Uh huh. We just came back from Lebanon, and they just got back from, I believe it was Korea or Nam, one or the other, for their two weeks training.

DOROTHEA: Oh, my criminy!

HALE: And the unit here after I got out, after I got out went one year to Alamogordo, New Mexico. And one time to the Mojave Desert in California. And some of the units --- a number of them have gone to Germany.

RUBY: Now you were in Texas?

DOROTHEA: Do you fly there?

HALE: Yeah, they fly.

DOROTHEA: I mean, you know, they don't drive like they used to.

HALE: No, no, not that distance. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: I mean, you know, you used to always have the caravans that drove and drove and drove. (Laughter)

HALE: Yeah. Yeah, but not when they go distances like that. It's all air. They'll haul ---

DOROTHEA: Out of Boise, or Portland?

HALE: Well, they flew out of Boise; the unit here always flew out of Boise. We never made any of those, when Clinton and I were there, either one. The furthest we ever went ---

DOROTHEA: How many are in the National Guard from here now?

HALE: I don't really know. Dick's a first sergeant. But I, I, there's --- I expect around forty.

DOROTHEA: Still that many.

HALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Because you never ---

HALE: Surprising.

DOROTHEA: Do they still have monthly, or weekly meetings, or ---

HALE: They don't have, they quit, years ago, they no longer, we used to meet every Monday.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: And occasionally on weekends. Now they meet one weekend a month. They have Saturday and Sunday. And they'll go from here to Boise for a Saturday and Sunday. Or maybe to Bend. Or maybe to Baker, or ---

RUBY: ... isn't that more like Dick and Yriarte, the rest of them stay here.

HALE: Well, no, some of them stay here, but most of them go too. And they'll go for a weekend once a month, Saturday and Sunday. Pay isn't like it used to be either. Back when I ... what they get, \$37.50 for two weeks? (Laughter) Now it's over \$200 for the one weekend.

DOROTHEA: For one weekend? Oh, wow, he better re-enlist. (Laughter)

HALE: Well, see that's four drills. That's four days pay.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HALE: And you stop and figure that the starting pay for a, for an enlisted man is \$500 a month, or something now.

RUBY: Yeah, if he was still in, we'd be drawing pretty fair pay. (Laughter)

HALE: Yeah, I'd get about ---

RUBY: He retired as a major.

HALE: I'd get about, I'd get about ---

DOROTHEA: Do you have a retirement that comes in?

HALE: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Do you?

HALE: Every month. Yeah. I retired with twenty-three years service.

DOROTHEA: That's none of my business, but I was just curious.

HALE: Yeah. The only one around town out of the original unit that I can think of is Bill Runnels.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: Laird Holyfield was, and he's gone, and Stan Hofman is gone, and the only one I can think of is Bill Runnels.

RUBY: When did Don Heinz go out?

HALE: Oh, when he was in high school. I think he was a senior.

RUBY: He was there when you were running it.

HALE: He was in; he was pretty well in it from the start. But --- Bill, I think out of the original thirteen, Bill is the only one left in Burns.

DOROTHEA: Well, how did you, you said you started in it in 1949. How did you come about starting this? I mean, what was the purpose? Because ---

HALE: Well ---

DOROTHEA: --- did you, were you on active duty, and you wanted---

HALE: I was still in the Reserve. And actually, the one that really started it was Jack Pierce. He was interested in getting one started. And they conned --- they couldn't start it without an officer. So, they conned Roy and Frank and I into taking a commission in it. Or we were both --- we were all in the Reserve. Frank was out of the Marines, and Roy was out of the Air Force, the same as I was. And ---

DOROTHEA: So, as a Reserve officer, you have to go somewhere for training, so this is what ---

HALE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: --- why you decided on this then.

HALE: And see we --- and then I think Jack really wanted to get a commission out of it, is why he was interested in starting it. So, he finally did, he went off to OCS and got a commission as second

lieutenant. But back when we originally started, there for years there, all of our NCO's were --- had combat duty, ex-service men, with combat time. All the officers, and all the top three grades were ex-combat soldiers. We had a real fine outfit.

DOROTHEA: At that time, did you then start to recruit boys that didn't have any ---

HALE: We had too afterwards. For a while, the original bunch were all ex-service people. And then we, you see the kids only had to be eighteen, was all they had to get in. I think they can get in with seventeen with their folk's consent. I'm not sure. But eighteen, and they'd sign up for a term. And it was fairly easy to get out if they wanted to. But I think some of them probably used it to keep from getting drafted. But they had to spend the same amount of time in the guard as they did as if they had been drafted.

DOROTHEA: Well, Clinton was kind of forced into it. It was either join the Service or get a, whatever kind of deferment or something from the Service. So, George went into the Service, and Clinton joined the National Guard. So that was more or less what the purpose was there. But he wished now that he'd changed places with George. But George got drafted, so --- they needed somebody on the ranch, so Clinton joined the National Guard.

HALE: Well, there were, there were, we had quite a number of officers in here. But I was for a long time, the only one. But we, I don't know how many different ones we had off and on. Some of the, some of the men that I had as a --- when they first got their second lieutenant bars wound up being full colonels, and one of them even a brigadier general. And I had them for junior officers when they first got a commission as second lieutenant.

DOROTHEA: They went on with ---

HALE: Yeah, I was the oldest ranking captain in the northwest. (Laughter) I was a captain for seventeen or eighteen years.

DOROTHEA: Well, I know it was a, it was good experience for the boys though. I mean, you know, it was something that ---

HALE: Some of them learned, actually learned a profession out of it. We had, well --- oh, heck, I can't --- I forget their names. But we sent kids off to electronics school. We sent one kid off, and he

did so well he never did come back. (Laughter) They hired him to, hired him and he went to work for them right there. Carol Rose was one that went off to school. He went to school for two or three years.

DOROTHEA: Now is that what Mac did, was ah, wasn't it Mac Runnels, Bill Runnels ---

HALE: Bill Runnels didn't need to go to school, he did it so that ---

DOROTHEA: I mean that's what he was a ---

HALE: Yeah, he was an electronics man.

DOROTHEA: --- an electronic man.

HALE: He was probably the sharpest guy in the state.

DOROTHEA: I know he was really good.

HALE: He was, he was good. And, but --- I --- He at that time worked for Ray Voegtly.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: And he just got out of the Service. He was in the Navy. In fact, I think he flew in the Navy. Or he flew on a Navy plane, crewmember.

DOROTHEA: And he still lives here, doesn't he?

HALE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I thought he did.

HALE: Yeah, he went to work for the telephone company, and then he bought the furniture store, and then he went back to work for the telephone company.

DOROTHEA: He wasn't one of them that moved to Redmond or some place.

HALE: No, no, not Bill.

DOROTHEA: I haven't seen him for a long time, so I didn't know what he was doing.

HALE: I haven't seen him since we got home this spring.

RUBY: I haven't seen Mac either.

HALE: I saw Rosie.

DOROTHEA: I haven't seen either one of them. Oh, Rosie retired see, so maybe they're traveling or something now.

HALE: Yeah. Oh, she was ---

RUBY: I seen her; I don't know just where it was.

HALE: --- saw her. But Bill's wife of course works for the telephone company too.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: Dixie worked for the telephone company for years. In fact, she worked for them long before Bill did. When they had operators in Burns. (Laughter) That's a thing of the past too.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, we used to have a telephone ---

HALE: Company.

DOROTHEA: --- company here.

HALE: And a crew.

DOROTHEA: And a crew, right.

HALE: Now we don't have either. Well, there's one or two people I guess up there. I don't know who it is.

DOROTHEA: I think Elden ---

HALE: He's on his own. Meeder.

DOROTHEA: Is he on his own?

HALE: Yeah. He's a service --- he does the service work. Does what they require. But he does it on his own.

DOROTHEA: He has something to do with the telephone.

HALE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I know I think he said he bought all the telephones or something, that are for rent.

HALE: Yeah, from the company. And he takes care of the phones, and services them, and also sells satellite disks and stuff on the side. Yeah, he worked for them, and he could have, he could have gone somewhere else. But he chose to take that and stay.

DOROTHEA: Well, he probably does just as well. I know we've got --- our telephone system is not the best.

HALE: No, but it gets more expensive every year. (Laughter) Well, when you have to call Bend to

make arrangements for service work done in Burns, it's ---

RUBY: You have to call Bend to get the fire department. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well, we've discussed quite a bit here, is there anything else that you think that, or have down on your notes there that ---

HALE: No, I just put a bunch of junk down here in case you had some questions.

DOROTHEA: Well, go through it and see what you can put in there that we haven't had in here.

HALE: Well, mostly just my personal history that I had down here. And not the other.

DOROTHEA: Well, we really wanted some of your personal history, but we seem to have kind of by-passed it.

BARBARA: Well, what have you been doing since you retired?

HALE: Nothing. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Running around looking at things, huh.

HALE: We've, we've spent all the winters, I guess, down south since we've retired. Rather pleasant.

DOROTHEA: Better for rheumatism and arthritis.

HALE: It's a lot better on arthritis then up here, I'll tell you. My leg didn't bother me until, a little bit since I got back, but other than that it's --- No ---

DOROTHEA: Well, I can't think of anything else. I think we've just about covered most everything. Unless Barbara can think of something, or Ruby. I think probably we'll thank you for your time. And we've appreciated ---

RUBY: Not unless you want to write down there where my dad was born.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's right. Where was that?

HALE: Did you look it up?

RUBY: It was Putnam County, Ohio.

DOROTHEA: Putnam County.

HALE: Ohio, I'll be darned. That's where my folks came from, on a covered wagon.

DOROTHEA: Came into Ohio?

HALE: No, they came from Ohio to Kansas in a covered wagon.

DOROTHEA: Oh, they did. Your mother was born a Parker. Now who were her parents?

RUBY: I got that.

DOROTHEA: You got that. (Laughter) Because I know Parker. So, I was wondering who her ---

RUBY: Okay. His name was Thomas James Parker. And they got mother's maiden name was Catherine Parker, which I don't know her last --- what her maiden name was.

DOROTHEA: And what did they do, were they --- did they ranch or raise cattle, or work for Peter French or ---

RUBY: Uh --- her father, what do I want to say, one of these kind of ministers in, you know, when you go abroad.

BARBARA: Missionaries?

HALE: Missionaries.

RUBY: Missionary. Yeah, he was a missionary in ---

HALE: At one time she was related to half the people in Harney County. I think the Heinzes and Presleys and Oards and ---

RUBY: Well, I still am. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: You still pray a lot. (Laughter)

HALE: But the population has changed, so it's not half of the county anymore. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: I used to brag that I wasn't related to anybody. But my relatives have grown. (Laughter)

HALE: It does change, don't it?

DOROTHEA: But I came from Kansas, and Daddy was the only one here, but now it seems like I'm related to everybody. Some not too, mentionable. But --- You mentioned Eldon Presley run the store down at Crane --- look what I did. Was that Cyc's dad or was that ---

RUBY: Eldon Presley is Cyc.

DOROTHEA: Is Cyc. I know that, but I mean his dad, he ran the store down at, down at Crane.

RUBY: Well at one time, yeah. When I was in high school, he, he ---

DOROTHEA: Huh.

RUBY: I don't know whether he was just helping out, but then, you know.

HALE: Working there, maybe.

RUBY: But ---

HALE: That was quite a general store there at one time. I can remember it. It didn't burn 'til a year or two after I got here. And the bank was a pretty good-sized bank.

BARBARA: I was going to ask you; did you work in the hardware store after your children were grown, or while they were growing up? Or, for how long afterwards?

HALE: Afterwards.

RUBY: Afterwards, is when Jinks got sick.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

RUBY: Well then of course we bought them out. Yeah, all my kids were pretty well grown then.

HALE: Yeah, the last ten years she worked there full time.

DOROTHEA: Now, I didn't know your daughter Phyllis apparently.

HALE: She got married, and they weren't around here very long.

RUBY: She got married in '62, I believe it was.

DOROTHEA: 'Cause I know Beverly, and I know the boys, but I didn't ---

HALE: Yeah, she left, they went, they lived ---

RUBY: See you were a Howes, weren't you?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HALE: --- they lived in Montana; they worked in Montana, and California. For the last fifteen years or so, in Arizona. In Tucson.

DOROTHEA: Is that where you go in the winter?

HALE: Well, they put on; we go there for a month or two. They put in a hook-up for a trailer, water, sewer, and everything.

RUBY: Feel like we have to. (Laughter)

HALE: So, we just pretty ---

BARBARA: You're obligated now.

HALE: --- near have to go.

RUBY: Afraid she'd disown us if we didn't.

DOROTHEA: Well, it makes it nice though. Because you can have your own home, and yet be close too. So, and be in the warmer country, or place. So that makes it nice.

HALE: But we had something this year you didn't have here. We had a white Christmas in Tucson.

DOROTHEA: That's what --- I had to laugh.

HALE: Three inches of white stuff.

DOROTHEA: My youngest daughter and her husband came from ---

HALE: They'd never heard of it.

DOROTHEA: --- Grand Junction, Colorado. And they were laughing; their friends had gone to, I think it was Tucson, to have Christmas. She had just gotten out of the hospital, and she was in recuperation. And they had gone there so it would be nice and warm, and they could bask in the sun. (Laughter) We didn't have snow, and they had four inches. And we jut laughed and laughed.

HALE: The first year we went down, New Year's Day, we'd been swimming, and we were sitting in the shade, and it was either ninety-one, or ninety-two.

RUBY: And it hasn't been that warm down there since.

HALE: Well, not consistently. But it's warmer than here. They still think it's cold when it gets below forty at night.

DOROTHEA: Well, they'd freeze up here then.

HALE: They, they'd, some of the houses practically no heat in them.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HALE: They all got air conditioners, but their light bill in the summertime is ferocious. Most of us --- they figure, for just a small two bedroom house around \$250, to \$275 light bill in the summer, on account of air conditioning. It's, and it's high down there too. Electricity is high, and gas is as high as it is here. And they're right next door to the gas fields. It makes you wonder.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. You want to turn that off.

HALE: But ah ---

(END OF TAPE)

bl