

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #236 - Sides A & B

Subject: Red & Naomi Walter and Jack & Elaine Reeves

Place: Driving through Diamond Valley

Date: October 18, 1975

Interviewer: Red Walter Tapes

RED WALTER: There are two or three pretty short turns on that hill.

JACK REEVES: Yeah.

RED: We get over here just a little bit; you can look back over there.

JACK: What are you doing, going to sleep again?

ELAINE REEVES: Oh, I find myself nodding, I ...

JACK: Well, you went to bed early last night.

ELAINE: I know.

RED: God, we didn't go to bed to darn near midnight.

JACK: Oh.

RED: I never got up until seven o'clock, and god that's awful late for me. This is a little place, if I was a younger feller, this is the kind of a little place I'd like to have. But I wouldn't even think about it now. But you see that water comes right down out of that notch over there. I don't know what they call that creek. Jack, if that thing gets ---

JACK: Well, that's all right.

RED: That's all right.

JACK: Yeah. That's okay. It's pretty warm now, you know.

RED: See that road a coming off of that ---

JACK: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, it bends around the corner right there, and around that draw.

RED: Swamp Creek.

JACK: Yeah, it's got a lazy wide "B", I think.

RED: This is where that --- this is where that, oh ---

NAOMI WALTER: Ousley.

RED: --- oh, Ousley. Yeah.

JACK: Wayne?

RED: Wayne Ousley.

JACK: Oh.

ELAINE: Oh, he's the one we met.

JACK: He used to be the buckaroo boss for Giddings.

ELAINE: Look at the Brahma down there.

JACK: Yeah, he was a Brahma bulls ---

RED: Why he was buckaroo boss there at the ---

JACK: Island Ranch.

RED: Island Ranch.

JACK: Yeah, yeah that's the guy. For Masterson and Giddings.

RED: God dang ---

JACK: Buckarooing some cattle in the corner right there. Let's stop and watch them a minute.

RED: Yeah. That ... with the green sparrow.

JACK: I'll stop them. I'm going to get out and look over the edge. I can't see them coming ... scattered all over the hill.

NAOMI: Of course he knew what he was doing too.

ELAINE: Yeah, you bet.

RED: Yeah, yeah. He would scatter more cows than ten men could hold.

ELAINE: Wayne.

JACK: Yeah. Wayne Ousley.

ELAINE: There's a cow and a calf.

RED: Yeah, he's putting out another ... there.

ELAINE: ... if they'd just stay there in that corner like that ...

JACK: Oh, they got two people holding it ... They're not stirring them up. Yeah, that's quite a spot.

ELAINE: Yeah, it's pretty, very pretty.

NAOMI: See, it goes way back up there.

RED: See, it goes way back up there.

ELAINE: Yeah, yeah, way back up there.

RED: Now we're going to drop right down into ---

ELAINE: Look at this pretty ---

NAOMI: It's pretty there.

ELAINE: Isn't that pretty.

NAOMI: One thing about the fall, you get to see all the cattle.

ELAINE: Yeah.

JACK: Yeah, yeah. Early spring or ---

ELAINE: First thing in the spring, or late in the fall.

JACK: --- in the fall.

RED: God them cows is in good shape, Jack.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Now Jack, that's the kind of cows they want now. They want them fat cows, right off of the grass.

JACK: Huh.

RED: And they're going right straight to the slaughterhouse.

JACK: Yeah, can't pay for feeding, I guess. But it's been the difference.

NAOMI: Over at that pink house is where the old lady lives.

ELAINE: Oh, uh huh.

NAOMI: She's the nicest person you could meet.

ELAINE: Yeah.

RED: That's where cars come in there. Old mine --- She'd feed us if we stopped. She'd feed you something.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: No.

ELAINE: I couldn't eat a bite.

RED: Diamond Store, and post office.

ELAINE: That's quite a community.

RED: Yeah. And this is ---

ELAINE: That big blue building there a hotel?

NAOMI: Yeah.

RED: That's a ---

NAOMI: And they got a dance hall in there.

RED: Oh, what's her name? Rye Smyth's wife?

NAOMI: Nora.

RED: Nora. That's where Nora used to live.

JACK: Huh.

RED: But you see all these, all these little corners, Jack? Look at the pasture and stuff they got.

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

RED: All up through here they ---

NAOMI: Those ranches up there in that valley, don't Witzel live on up there?

RED: No, Witzel lives over in this other one. I think that this is all Otleys. I think Otleys got all of this in here. Jenkins, that's the Jenkins place right over there where all the big trees are, right agin' the hill.

NAOMI: ... eaves under there for ...

RED: Well that's the old roads that they go to this summer range.

JACK: Uh huh.

RED: They go right up under these ridges.

JACK: Well we get started up there, why they ---

RED: They don't turn around and come back.

JACK: --- they have everybody and the children helping them.

NAOMI: Yes.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Well this Otley outfit here is a pretty big outfit. And they --- three of them boys, and the old man, and they got lots of cattle.

NAOMI: The old man died, didn't he?

RED: By god, I believe he did.

NAOMI: Yeah, a year ago.

RED: Old Henry.

ELAINE: There's some really quite small camps in there.

NAOMI: Uh huh.

RED: Yeah, I think this is all Otleys.

JACK: Yeah, it looks like their ---

RED: They branded with the Isle of Man.

JACK: The Isle of Man.

RED: And the three-legged outfit.

ELAINE: I've seen so many cattle on this trip, Jack, with a slash ---

NAOMI: ...

ELAINE: Yeah.

JACK: Dulap.

ELAINE: Dulap. Uh huh. Why do they do that?

RED: Oh, that's just a mark.

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: ...

JACK: Yeah --- generally you can pick up an earmark faster than you can a brand, can't you?

RED: Oh yeah. Yeah with so much, so much of your earmarks freezes off, Jack.

JACK: Uh huh.

RED: Now you take one of them waddles, dulap, something like that, they don't freeze off too bad.

JACK: Uh huh. Yeah, the Island was a right crop, and a left under scope, wasn't it?

RED: Yeah.

JACK: Why, I remember some things anyway. (Laughter)

RED: Well, now that's, that's that Otley outfit I think. Right out there, right out in the middle there.

NAOMI: And this is the new community hall, it runs out of here, for the Diamond community.

ELAINE: Oh, I see.

NAOMI: Instead of building it in town, they built it here.

ELAINE: Yeah, uh huh.

NAOMI: And they give dances, and I don't know ...

RED: I think this is all Otleys.

JACK: Yeah, they must be pretty good size.

RED: Oh, they're big. One of them, one of them boys was pretty well up in the cattlemen's association.

NAOMI: He was president.

RED: Yeah, Charlie. Do you see any --- but this is the Jenkins outfit.

ELAINE: This is a beautiful valley.

JACK: Now this the same Jenkins that is way over ---

RED: Yeah.

NAOMI: This ain't the one where you rode up the hill is it, Red? I thought it had a break in it.

RED: No, I think it's on over here a little farther. Buck, he likes to come up here and look around.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: He tells you all about shooting a Chinaman. Shooting old John Witzel and ---

NAOMI: Well he tells about it --- a time when jumped on behind Charley, and shot the Chinaman off. And went through and hit --- what you call it, but the Chinaman fell off the horse as they went through the camp.

JACK: This was during the Indian War?

RED: Yeah.

NAOMI: Yeah.

JACK: When they were chasing Pete French back towards ...

RED: Yeah.

JACK: Then they got organized and ---

RED: Yeah, then they all got organized and they ---

ELAINE: Why Pete French killed?

RED: Run the Indians out.

JACK: Yeah, they run them clear up to Pendleton.

RED: Yeah.

JACK: And Umatilla. Yeah. They really did a job when they got organized.

NAOMI: I don't know --- why was Pete --- why was he killed Red, do you know?

RED: Oh, it was some homesteader that killed him, isn't it?

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: Well he had the homesteaders file on the place, and then he took it away from them.

RED: Well, I don't know just ---

NAOMI: Bothered me ... Then they run the homesteader off ... I don't know.

RED: You know, that old Buck's dad was a pretty rough old customer too.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: You know that's the reason he lost that ranch over there. You know he killed a man, and he had to sell that ranch to fight the --- Now you see there's Jenkins, Hamilton - -- That's the Otley outfit over there. The Hamiltons ---

NAOMI: The apples is still on the trees there too.

JACK: That's what he lost his horse running ... on.

RED: Yeah.

NAOMI: You can see why it's warmer ...

ELAINE: Yeah.

RED: Yeah. ... Well this is, this ah --- Witzels. Yeah. And Thompson's --- what's that ---



what's that ---

NAOMI: ...

RED: What?

ELAINE: Level as a board. Yes.

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: Lucille Thompson's.

RED: Lucille's, yeah.

NAOMI: She live up in there?

RED: Yeah, they live up along the turn up there.

NAOMI: Leon.

RED: Yeah, yeah. They live on --- I don't think you can see the house. I think it's up around that turn. But I don't know which one of these gaps it was here.

NAOMI: Well it was just a very little old gap in the layout in the hill, and I think it was up here.

RED: I believe it was back there.

NAOMI: It was just a little place in the rock. It looked kind of like this one up here. Buck showed us one time. And he said that Chinaman was on one of them. Maybe there was two Chinamen, I imagine there was. And he said that that ... put him on behind him, and as they went through the gap, why the Indians killed him. He fell off right there. ... went through and hit him in the back. And he went on. But he had an awful time a getting through. But I thought it was this one, that little old place right up there where he ...

RED: It might have been right down there.

NAOMI: I think so. I feel quite sure it is.

RED: Yeah, that's that, that's the red Angus there, Jack.

JACK: Oh, yeah, yeah.

ELAINE: Red Angus.

RED: Yeah, that fellers got all registered red Angus.

JACK: Well Buck, Red, that guy --- a small outfit in here with two hundred head, can they make a go of it?

RED: By god Jack, them little outfits is making a better go of it than the big ones.

JACK: Is that right?

RED: Because most of them Jack, are not in debt.

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: Where that, where they went over see, is a break in the rock. Just had ... to get over it. ... We stopped and we looked back ---

RED: It's these big outfits Jack, that's a hurting.

JACK: Huh.

RED: That --- their overhead, with taxes, and you take on these big ranches here, Jack, the taxes is something awful.

JACK: Yeah, I imagine so.

RED: And a lot of these fellers that bought these ranches the last ten, twelve years, you know, and they haven't got them paid out.

JACK: Oh yeah, yeah. Tremendous bunch of capital to pay off.

RED: Yeah.

JACK: I don't know of any ranch that really could be a going proposition with the prices they had to pay in the last ten, twelve years.

RED: You know I thought it was one of these gaps right here.

NAOMI: Well it might have been. It wasn't a big gap. It was just a break in the rock.

RED: Just a little gap like that one right there.

NAOMI: Yeah.

JACK: Uh huh.

NAOMI: Like that right there. It wasn't a big gap. There must have been a house there at one time too.

ELAINE: Yes.

RED: Well they cleaned out all these old trees that was here. This was the old ---

NAOMI: Barnes.

RED: Old Barnes, yeah.

ELAINE: Isn't that nice?

JACK: Those big poplars that they got there.

RED: Yeah, them old trees all died, and they cleaned them out.

NAOMI: People that --- of course a lot of these outsiders ...

JACK: Boy he's got that place pretty spic and span.

NAOMI: ... older people ...

RED: Sure some pretty little ranches in here. And they're good ranches. They've knocked the water --- you know they very seldom ever have a failure here.

JACK: Yeah. Yeah, it looks awfully good, Red.

RED: Is this that truck that was loading cinders?

JACK: ...

RED: --- there?

ELAINE: It looks like it, doesn't it?

RED: Yeah. Well he could have come in right down here. You see we went right up along the hill over there.

JACK: Yeah.

ELAINE: Must be. There is a lot of sub irrigation, where they have these fields still so green.

NAOMI: Yeah, they take ...

RED: Well I think that they just got a few dams in this creek, and just turn it out and it just covers the whole layout.

JACK: Yeah. Yeah, it probably does flooding in that time. But --- it stays pretty wet, the sub-soil, yeah.

RED: Yeah, yeah. Once they get it all wet, and then just keep the sloughs full, creeks full, why ---

JACK: Stays pretty good year 'round.

RED: God, look at the cows in there. Now them must be, them must be that Hammonds. Them cows ain't been in too long. See them cows not in too good a shape, a lot of them.

NAOMI: I think they just brought them up the mountain.

RED: Yeah.

NAOMI: That's where she's been part of the time.

JACK: You have to get them down off the hills this early, why you have to spend some time gathering them, don't you?

NAOMI: Yes.

JACK: A little bit colder, why a lot of them come in by themselves.

RED: Well that's the worst trouble now, Jack, they got the darn layout all fenced up, until - --

NAOMI: They can't get home.

RED: They can't come home.

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

RED: Now I think this is where that --- Walter Bailey, I think that is one of them Bailey boys. Goddamn --- this down here, this is where that Tony Halter, he was a --- quite a friend of Joe's dad.

NAOMI: Well he wasn't a friend of Joe's.

RED: He wasn't a friend of Joe's. Joe don't like him at all.

NAOMI: He come from a --- they used to live at Redmond. They had a little ranch over there, and then they moved to ... He come from a big town, and they ... She was more or less of a social climber ...

RED: He ah ---

NAOMI: He would want to come over and borrow anything Joe's got.

RED: Yeah, yeah, he wants some equipment, he don't want to buy it, he just wants to come over and borrow Joe's.

NAOMI: And he doesn't take care of it.

ELAINE: Boy, that's bad.

RED: ... I can go out there at the ranch and get anything he's got ... By god, pretty quick, you'll be with me, just like ... with a halter. (Laughter) He said that damn halter just rubs me the wrong way. (Laughter) Now this is ---

NAOMI: ... wasn't even at the same ---

RED: This is the one that they used to call this the New Diamond. This was --- well Pete French had ah --- "P" outfit used to have a kid there.

JACK: Uh huh.

RED: But you see this big ditch right here now ---

JACK: Yeah.

RED: --- Jack, they've got this water so they can handle it.

JACK: Yeah. ... outfit. Now you're back in the refuge.

RED: Yeah, that's refuge.

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: Yes, yes they are. And Myrtle and Helen used to go camping, and they went to

Alaska and they went to Mexico ... Wyoming, you know. ...

RED: Well I think the main trouble with this Tony, I think when Virgil died, he thought he was high enough up in the family that he would get to be administrator or something, you know. Get a hand in it. That's all he wanted.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: And when Virgil died, there wasn't enough, there wasn't enough left for ---

NAOMI: To make ...

RED: To make a --- no, you see that ranch there, Grandma give that to Joe.

NAOMI: Joe bought it from her.

RED: Well, yes.

NAOMI: She didn't live too long after ... six years is all. Which is not long enough to even pay for it. But --- that's ... the reason why ...

JACK: God, this thing goes a long ways, doesn't it?

RED: Well this is all Diamond Valley.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: All of it.

JACK: Yeah. This is still the canal, huh?

RED: Yeah.

JACK: All coming out of Kiger Creek.

RED: Well, comes out of Kiger, or McCoy or ---

JACK: Whichever ... yeah.

NAOMI: ...

JACK: Boy, the sun is shining on the snow today.

RED: Yeah. Yeah, there is quite a little bit of snow up on top of that hill.

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

NAOMI: ... There is more birds on here than there is on the pond. Look at that egret out there. The white ones an egret.

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

RED: Most of them is sea gulls.

JACK: Yeah, most of them ---

NAOMI: An egret come into Joe's ...

RED: Oh, way over there next to the fence, yeah.

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: Yeah, there was an egret in by Joe's out there, fishing. He had a couple fish ...

JACK: Yeah, we saw one yesterday, and one this morning.

NAOMI: ... a lot of geese ... Yeah, some of them cranes ... Well isn't it a shame them birds take all ...

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: You see it isn't necessary ---

JACK: Well they'll have to take a back seat one of these days, and put it back in production.

ELAINE: ... it gets tough enough ...

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: Well after those people settled in ...

JACK: Yeah, you bet your life. They're getting hammered a little bit now on taxes, and they're going to get hammered some more. This big fiasco on --- that is going on in New York City is going to make a lot of them ---

ELAINE: It will open a lot of eyes too.

RED: Why I was going to ask you your opinion on that. That --- well they want the government --- they want the government to bail them out. Well I, I read quite an article in

this Time Magazine on that. And one old feller said well if they bail, if they bail New York out, there is several more of these big cities that's like ---

JACK: Put the hand right there.

RED: Yeah.

JACK: Yeah. Well, they say when they --- some of these sob sisters say well if you let New York go down, it will ruin the market for ... city securities nationwide. If you bail out New York it will ruin them for sure. They got to let New York sink or swim. That's all! If they can't pull themselves up by their own bootstraps, let them go down.

RED: Well Jack, I read, I read one article on that, and they said that --- Well one out of every twenty in New York, either works for the city of New York, or for the government.

JACK: Yeah, yeah. There is a very high ratio there --- their tax bill is about three times what it is in Chicago.

RED: Yeah.

JACK: Chicago has got that fellow that he --- he don't like to do it --- Mayor Dailey, you know. Always seems to be the ... hall politician. But still in all, they're in pretty good financial state. They, they set up a welfare payment in New York that attracts all the dead beats in the nation to go there.

RED: Yeah, that's what that article said. Said they had the best welfare system a going, and it's --- lots of these old people --- What's them, cranes?

JACK: I would say they're geese. But they might be cranes.

RED: Too long neck for geese, ain't they Jack?

JACK: No, they're geese I think. They might be.

RED: I believe they're cranes.

JACK: Okay, I think you're right. I got a good view there. There's another bunch.

RED: Yeah.



NAOMI: I see more that just --- hundreds and hundreds in a bunch and they ...

RED: Yeah.

ELAINE: I didn't know that cranes flew in flocks like that.

RED: Oh my god, in the spring of the year and in the fall ---

ELAINE: ... across the road.

RED: There goes some more, god. Yeah, them is cranes, Jack.

JACK: Yeah, I think so too.

RED: I can't see good enough.

JACK: I know they're cranes now.

RED: Yeah.

JACK: They're not geese.

RED: Yeah, they're too long neck.

JACK: Yeah. See them all out here?

RED: Oh god yes. See them?

ELAINE: Aren't those pretty?

RED: Yeah, they're cranes.

JACK: Yeah, they're cranes.

ELAINE: Yeah.

NAOMI: Yeah ...

ELAINE: Oh, yeah.

RED: We hit the oil right here.

NAOMI: ... flew over ...

JACK: Well didn't we cross the Blitzen back there?

RED: Nope.

JACK: We haven't crossed it?

RED: Oh yeah, yeah, we did. We crossed the --- the main, yeah, that's the main ---

JACK: The main Blitzen, yeah.

RED: We cross another big canal right over here.

JACK: Uh huh.

NAOMI: ... was always so fascinating.

ELAINE: Oh, it is fascinating.

NAOMI: Some run one way, and some the other.

ELAINE: Yeah.

NAOMI: ...

RED: There is something right out there, Jack. Are they cranes?

JACK: I don't know. There is something over there, but I can't tell from here what they are. I --- they must be cranes. There are several of them.

ELAINE: I've never seen them in numbers like that before, you know.

JACK: This is the other ---

RED: Yeah, this is the canal.

JACK: --- canal, yeah.

ELAINE: You see a crane ... a single crane. I don't think I've ever seen two cranes, Jack.

JACK: Oh yeah, you have.

ELAINE: ...

NAOMI: ... thirteen miles. I don't want to go back on the roads we come in yesterday.

RED: What ah --- forty-two miles to Burns.

JACK: Well --- god we made quite a loop, Red.

RED: We made quite a little loop there, and we ain't through yet.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Well you see ---

NAOMI: There is a bunch of them right there.

JACK: Yeah, that's cranes.

RED: That's all cranes there.

NAOMI: See them out there in the field?

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: Ever see them dance?

ELAINE: No, I never have.

RED: Here is some right here. What's ---

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: ...

JACK: There is a bunch of, coming in, setting their wings now.

RED: Well you see they've sowed a lot of grain in here.

JACK: Yeah. Ah, there's a bunch of them over there.

ELAINE: And they just stay right here, don't they?

NAOMI: I think a lot of these will go on. But some of them will stay.

JACK: What good are they?

RED: I don't know. I never tried to eat one.

NAOMI: That's just what I wondered why ---

ELAINE: I was going to say ...

JACK: I think it would be about like eating a magpie or a crow.

ELAINE: Yes.

RED: (Laughter) Oh ---

NAOMI: I just wonder what ---

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: There are ...

RED: That's the way the old road used to go.

JACK: Yeah.

ELAINE: Yes. ...

NAOMI: Yes. And there's still a lot more.

JACK: Yeah, they sure, you give them a little bit and they will take the rest of it.

ELAINE: ... over do it ...

RED: But look at that road going up that hill right behind us there. Up behind us.

ELAINE: Yes.

RED: That's the old road.

ELAINE: Is it? Boy it goes right straight up.

NAOMI: ...

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Yeah, you come in here yesterday. They're working on it. They're going to oil this road plum through to Nevada.

JACK: Down through Roaring Springs?

RED: Yeah. That ---

JACK: Yeah.

RED: That big outfit down there, they're putting a lot of pressure on, you know. Now you see here's some more of your lava.

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

ELAINE: ...

RED: This is the Buena Vista. See them, lava way over there, Jack?

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

RED: See the places out there where it's running out pretty well into the valley?

JACK: Yeah. The ranches around the side now, do they, do they cut the hay down there

in the refuge? Or do the refuge contract that cutting?

RED: Well, most of them ranchers out there, they, they get that hay. They have to cut it, put it up.

JACK: Then some of them, certain places they're sold grazing rights in on it too.

RED: Yeah, yeah.

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: Well they're cutting a lot of that out now when they ... when they have to put up that hay, they have to haul it off.

RED: Yeah, a lot of that up there at the "P" Ranch, and in there, they made them, they made them haul that hay off.

NAOMI: They wouldn't let them have the pasture.

JACK: I see.

NAOMI: Gonna break some of them.

JACK: Yeah, with the ---

RED: Well there is a nice bunch of black cows right here, just around this turn.

NAOMI: Suppose Joe went elk hunting?

RED: Oh no, he wouldn't have went elk hunting unless he called me up.

NAOMI: ...

RED: It's hard to tell.

JACK: There's a lot of baled, and lots of ---

RED: Yeah.

JACK: --- just raked up over there.

RED: A lot of bunched hay out there too.

NAOMI: They'll let them have some of that pasture this year. But some of them here, making them pay a little more, little more often.

RED: By god, they've moved these black cows. There was --- this layout here was full of black cows.

JACK: I think they were in on the other --- there was some black cows right in here --- no. There's a coyote.

NAOMI: There's a coyote.

RED: Yeah. And I ain't got my gun.

ELAINE: Yeah.

NAOMI: He went ahead ...

RED: No, no, he must have ---

NAOMI: ... homestead right here, when I come.

RED: Yeah, there is a little chunk right here that don't belong to the bird refuge. (Laughter) Some feller slipped in here and homesteaded this corner.

NAOMI: Yeah, but they're trying to buy it from him.

RED: Oh, yes.

JACK: The --- was the homestead down here 320 acres, or did they get 640?

RED: Now I don't know Jack, I don't know.

JACK: Up around our country, I think a man and wife could only get 320.

RED: A 160 a piece.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Yeah. I think the original homestead was a 160 acres. And then you could take a desert claim ---

NAOMI: ...

RED: Yeah, they ain't going to be much for you to see here now.

JACK: Yeah, it's quite a, it's quite a valley coming off the Blitzen going up to Diamond. It's really quite something to see.

NAOMI: ... (Too much interference in background.)

JACK: Are there any --- trap your beaver, mink in there, and bobcat, do they ---

RED: Yeah, muskrats.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: But they tell them how many they can take. Now that, that road that goes up through there will take you back all over the desert.

JACK: Boston Flat, huh.

RED: Boston Flat.

JACK: Uh huh. Thirty-two miles.

NAOMI: ...

RED: There is lots of petrified wood over in here.

JACK: Uh huh.

RED: When they was building this road through here, by god they, they dug out some big, some big logs up there. And they loaded them on one of these lowboys and hauled them off to California. And they had quite a to-do over that.

JACK: Well ---

RED: They finally said you couldn't --- no power machinery. You couldn't dig with it.

JACK: Any power equipment.

RED: Yeah.

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: A lot of petrified wood up on that --- that road, right here. We have ...

ELAINE: ...

JACK: Well they sold it for a fortune in pieces down south.

NAOMI: Yes. They had one of them ...

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: Went over and loaded it right on that road. ...

RED: You see all this country here, Jack, this all belonged to that nephew. All this country in here. He's got four thousand acres here.

NAOMI: Goes on both sides don't it?

RED: Yeah.

JACK: What does he use it for, summer range?

RED: Yeah.

JACK: Has he got water in it?

RED: Oh yeah, he's got --- see that trailer house sitting right up there?

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Well he's got a good well up there.

NAOMI: Pipes it clear down across the road.

JACK: Well ---

RED: Yeah, he put in a pipeline here.

JACK: All of that adds up to a few cents a pound to the beef you sell.

RED: Yeah, but Jack, they --- before Virgil died, you see, I don't know, but he was a getting quite a payment on that ranch there he sold. Well he's --- you see all back up in there --- but he put a, he put a lot of that money into this land.

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

RED: He ... You know this --- these fences cost him a lot of money.

JACK: Oh, yeah. You bet your life.

RED: And then he cleared a lot of this. All that up in there, he took all the brush off of it, and sowed it to crested wheat.

NAOMI: He cleared this one down here too, didn't he?

RED: Yes. He cleared all this down through here, and see there is his ---



JACK: Yeah.

RED: --- that water comes from up there at that ...

JACK: Well.

NAOMI: Well Virgil left this part to the boys, his grandsons.

RED: God, they had a --- they had a hell of a time over that. You see they can't touch that, Jack, until that boys twenty-one years old.

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

NAOMI: ...

RED: Quite ah --- you can see the fence going up the hill over there.

JACK: Yes.

RED: And there's quite a ---

SIDE B

...

RED: Well this --- I imagine this is ...

NAOMI: Look like them kids has been a biting on that --- the dogs.

ELAINE: Uh huh.

NAOMI: ... I had a set back, we went down there by the ... layout. They had reserved seats for us. It cost us twenty dollars apiece, I think. Stayed all night at that ...

ELAINE: Uh huh.

NAOMI: ... the trip down and back ...

ELAINE: It sounds like fun.

NAOMI: ... I don't like these cars ...

ELAINE: With this, well, it's kind of rough on the back seat --- the driver.

NAOMI: Red put his coat through there and I said you're going to have to do something

else with it. You can't see out as it is.

RED: Come down around here one time years ago, and had a stock ... on behind. But this road wasn't graveled then. They come up the range camp, god, that big old tree ... and we slid off the road. And they couldn't unhitch from the trailer. We couldn't run the steer out of the trailer. We finally messed around there for a couple of hours before finally some feller come along and pulled us out. But ---

JACK: What are those buttes over there?

RED: Well that's Riddle Mountain.

JACK: That's Riddle Mountain.

RED: That's --- part of the Steens, you see.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Steens comes out there.

JACK: Yeah, I see that ... This area in here is all new. I never knew what, what was in here.

RED: Well, I think a lot of that Jack, they --- they've sowed, I think it's had some crested wheat sowed on it.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: You see it looks like ---

JACK: Yeah, it's been treated all right.

RED: Yeah. We get down here a little place, there is three or four little places right down here that these fellers come in here and bought up these homesteads, and --- and drilled wells. You see that feller has got a little alfalfa over there.

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: You see that's a power line over there.

RED: Well that's what --- with this country in here ... when they got this power in here ---

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

RED: --- to pump this water.

JACK: Yeah, they did a little bit with windmills, but not much.

RED: Well, they couldn't depend on them, you know.

JACK: No. You'd think ... for stock maybe, but that's about all.

NAOMI: ...

RED: Just take them along July and August, you know. An old cow come in, and she was dry ---

JACK: (Laughter)

RED: My god, I'll tell you. She'd really take on some water.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Now this country here, Jack, here --- oh, seven, eight years ago they had a big fire in here. It burnt all of this.

JACK: Uh huh. Sagebrush and everything, huh?

RED: Yeah.

JACK: And then they seeded it, huh?

RED: Yeah.

JACK: Well ... get grass growing, you know, it seems to keep the sagebrush from starting up again.

RED: Oh yeah, you bet.

JACK: Yeah. I suppose in the early days when they had good grass here, there wasn't so much sagebrush either.

RED: I doubt it.

ELAINE: ...

NAOMI: ...

ELAINE: ... We'll do that first.

JACK: We'll do that before we go down to the lower country.

ELAINE: All right.

NAOMI: Well, we talked about it all summer. ... We haven't been anywhere this summer, have we?

RED: No.

NAOMI: Went to the coast, come back. Leland was all disturbed. ... It won't be so bad next year ...

RED: Now you see Jack, this feller here has got quite a little, set of quite them ... farm ...

JACK: Yeah, you bet.

RED: And if it wasn't for the water that he pumps ---

JACK: Yeah.

RED: --- why ---

JACK: It would blow away.

RED: Yes.

JACK: Well look at the hay he's selling. He's got a big truck there all ready to pull out. Suppose that he's getting eighty, ninety dollars a ton for it now. But I don't know how some of these feed lots, or anybody else is going to pay for it with the price of beef where it is.

RED: Well that's the hell of it, Jack. You take, now you take them weaner calves, and they're only worth about a hundred to ten, fifteen dollars. And you put them up in a feed lot and feed them for three, four months, by god you don't ... except you got eighty dollars worth of --- maybe a hundred dollars worth of feed in them.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: And you can't get it out.

JACK: Yeah, you can't get it out.

RED: Now you see Jack, that point right over there is the one where the Company had that lot. Right over there.

JACK: Uh huh.

RED: Come right down across this pasture, and down here about a mile they went up over that ridge. They had a little ranch over there next to the hill. And they stay all night there, and then the next day they took the Juniper.

JACK: Uh huh.

RED: Next day they'd go down to Mann Lake. Then down to the Alvord.

JACK: Yeah. Twelve miles a day, huh?

RED: Yeah, twelve, fifteen. That feller, looks like ...

JACK: ... Yes. He sure does. He got a lot of hay off.

RED: Yeah.

NAOMI: This one goes on clear down into Winnemucca, don't it Red?

RED: Well you go right out there and hit that Winnemucca highway.

JACK: Oh, yeah.

RED: Right over there next to that other hill. Now we're going to make a --- we're going to make a loop here. But you see Jack; all this ground is good ground. It will raise anything.

JACK: Well, it shows it by having good sagebrush.

RED: Yeah.

NAOMI: ...

ELAINE: Jack, I was thinking a little bit ago as I was coming across that ... that road yesterday, and I don't know why it popped into my mind, going across the ... and I ---

JACK: Oh, yeah.

ELAINE: ... ready to take off across that.

JACK: Yeah.

ELAINE: --- comes across with the Chrysler and now you try to take that road, you ... come with a pickup.

JACK: Just about as crazy all right.

ELAINE: That road was worse than what we were on yesterday.

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

ELAINE: But we took the original old road, trail across ... across to Powell, Montana ... And Powell is in Montana, isn't it dear?

JACK: No, no Powell is on the ---

ELAINE: --- is on the Idaho side?

JACK: Is on the Idaho side, yes.

ELAINE: ... It's a ... road. ...

JACK: Yeah, speaking of roads, it was on the divide between the ... and the Clearwater. It ... Clearwater.

... (Radio)

JACK: All of this has been cleared and planted, hasn't it?

... (Radio)

RED: I don't want no football game, I wanted to know how that World Series was coming out.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: I think Cincinnati is going to take it.

JACK: I don't know, Boston is pretty hot now.

RED: Three to --- three to two.

JACK: Is it three to two for Cincinnati?

RED: Yeah.

JACK: Oh well they --- they'll get it then if they got the chance. ... cleared a lot of this ground.

RED: Well this is what burnt off.

JACK: Oh, I see.

RED: Yeah. Oh god, they had a hell of a fire here.

JACK: It was really a range fire, wasn't it?

RED: Yes. Up here a little further, it burnt on both sides of the road.

ELAINE: Were we three days going across ...

JACK: Yeah, we took three days on the old Lolo Trail. Today you can drive it on the ... side in pretty fast time.

ELAINE: Yeah, but that isn't the Lolo Trail.

JACK: No, that's right.

ELAINE: ... built a road down along the river.

JACK: It's about a hundred and forty miles from gas station to gas station. And about --- oh ninety miles, no habitation on it.

NAOMI: And they call that the Lolo Trail there? ...

ELAINE: No, the Lolo Trail is the trail that Lewis and Clark followed ... Is it Clearwater, Jack?

JACK: Yeah, from the Bitterroot from Missoula into the Snake.

NAOMI: It was on the ...

JACK: Yeah, well --- the canyons are too rough to get through them. And the other trail south of that that crosses Idaho is the Nez Perce Trail. And that's the trail that Nez Perces used to take when they went buffalo hunting, in the fall. We crossed that, and we camped there two nights on that. And that's over a hundred miles with no habitation or ---

NAOMI: Well is it country like this?

JACK: No, it's all timber.

NAOMI: Oh.

JACK: All big timber. And there --- is just like you were traveling the backbone of the Steens. It's just up and down like that.

NAOMI: Huh?

RED: You see here Jack, is where this fire ---

JACK: Yeah.

RED: --- is ...

ELAINE: Some of them just fell through. Really.

NAOMI: But you enjoyed it anyway.

ELAINE: Oh ... Those things ... No, no and the immenseness of that forest, you know we viewed from the Lolo Trail ...

RED: God Jack, there is a lot of good feed in here, but they never ---

JACK: Yeah. Never used, yeah.

RED: No. ...

JACK: Water?

RED: No. This is fine. There should be a reservoir right down there. But right out from that little butte there.

NAOMI: Somebody set fire --- they had quite a fire up in here.

RED: Been up here cleaning it off, ain't they?

JACK: Must be.

RED: They didn't do a very good job. But they claim Jack, that that crested wheat won't burn.

JACK: Well --- I don't see why it wouldn't, but I wouldn't know.



RED: I wouldn't either. But they claim it won't burn.

JACK: They piled up enough tumbleweed here, or is this fireweed?

RED: Yeah.

JACK: This isn't fireweed, is it?

RED: No, I think that's just tumbleweeds.

JACK: Tumble weeds, yeah.

NAOMI: A lot of country in here, ain't it?

JACK: Oh, I should say, I should say. It went on the ... it went around the left of that little butte, didn't it?

RED: Yeah, yeah. It went up between this mountain and that other one over there.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Right up over the top.

JACK: And is Mann Lake on the other side there?

RED: Yeah, yeah.

JACK: Okay. We don't see Mann Lake and Juniper Lake when we came up from the Alvord?

RED: No, Juniper is the first one, and then Mann Lake, and then Alvord.

NAOMI: There is quite a contrast from ... I didn't ...

JACK: I didn't want to go ---

RED: Who?

JACK: On that drive, because I was still five hundred and fifty miles from home, and I didn't want to have to be getting home when the snow was too deep.

RED: No.

JACK: That valley down there ---

RED: Yeah. One old cow, two old cows.

JACK: Two. There's another one.

RED: Yeah.

JACK: There's another one, there's two more.

RED: Two or three on the other side of the fence.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Now Jack, they might have a winter permit on that wheat grass.

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

RED: But you see, see that, see that black spot right to the ---

JACK: Yeah, yeah.

RED: Well that's, that's that round barn right out there. Right on the other side of this fence.

JACK: Oh yeah, uh huh. There's quite a few cows.

RED: Yeah.

JACK: We might have crossed his cattle guards here. ... brand.

RED: Oh I imagine that these, these belong to these Jenkins.

JACK: Uh huh. Why he's branded on the left side I think. See one there?

RED: I couldn't even tell you what these Jenkins boys brand.

NAOMI: We were out here one time, this was practically dry.

RED: Yeah. This water comes off of, off of Riddle Mountain up there.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Comes in here ... and when they watered out, it goes right back out the same ditch it come in.

JACK: Is that right?

ELAINE: Did you think those penguins back there were swans, Jack?

JACK: Yeah, I thought they were swans.

NAOMI: That's all along there --- way, way over there we seen some white pelicans one time, didn't we, Red?

RED: Yeah.

JACK: At the time that Pete French used this round barn, he must have had a cabin or house or something there.

RED: Oh yeah, there was a, there was a house ---

NAOMI: There was a ranch house there, wasn't it?

RED: What?

NAOMI: There was a ranch house there.

RED: Yeah.

NAOMI: ... We had to re-roof this barn a while back, the historical society. Well I think Jenkins ...

JACK: Well one of those must be McCoy Creek, and Kiger Creek, somewhere up in there, huh? In one of those draws ---

RED: No, no.

JACK: --- Kiger Canyon.

RED: No. ...

JACK: ...

RED: We'll come to them after awhile. This is Riddle.

JACK: Riddle.

RED: Riddle, Riddle Creek comes off here.

JACK: Up in that canyon?

RED: Yeah.

JACK: I see. Well where does the center of Diamond lay from here?

RED: Well over here ... I'll take you right up around Diamond pretty quick. Soon as we

look this round barn over, then we'll go to Diamond. And there is quite a valley up through there.

JACK: Yeah, must be.

NAOMI: Was there a Happy Valley?

RED: Yeah, that's Happy Valley up in there.

JACK: Oh, I've read about the homesteaders in Happy Valley.

RED: Oh, you have?

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Well, now ---

JACK: That's in that book of "Harney County and Its Range Lands".

RED: Oh.

JACK: That's in that book.

RED: You see, Pete French he didn't get a hold of this Happy Valley.

JACK: No.

RED: That belonged to the Smyth's. There were some old, old timers here, Smyth. Old Rye Smyth.

JACK: Yeah, that's something.

RED: And they settled in this Happy Valley.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Now this --- this is Barton Lake. Now this little creek run down here and just run out there and stopped.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: And them boys, they fixed it so it went into that lake. Oh hell, yes. This gal here just comes out and jumps in the airplane and goes to town and gets her hair fixed and flies back.

JACK: (Laughter)

RED: Yeah, she'll call Helen up on the telephone and want an appointment, and hell she just jump in that airplane and in fifteen minutes she's in town.

JACK: Huh. Yeah, we saw --- well down there in that Taft Miller place there was a hanger and a plane there.

RED: They used to have one. I --- well Don's got a plane. Now this is where that creek comes --- come through.

RED: They used to have one. I --- well Don's got a plane. Now this is where that creek comes --- come through.

JACK: Yeah, it's a nice little stream. Yeah, one year my dad had some men build a --- quite a, dammed up this canyon, you know, and it --- canyon ---

RED: Now you read the literature, and then I'll back up and we'll go to the barn.

ELAINE: All right. About 1880, Pete French built this unusual round barn. French was the boss of the "P" Ranch. ... Donner and Blitzen Valley. ... riders used the barn for breaking and exercising horses and ... Nearly 300 head of horses ... horse and mule colts were foaled each year. Some were sold. Most were kept to work the ranch. Placed on high ground for better drainage, the barn composes of stone corrals, 60 feet in diameter, and a track between the corral on the outside walls. The conical roof is supported by a juniper center post, braces and poles, and is covered with cedar shingles. This historic structure, including two acres and the ...

JACK: Huh.

RED: Now them boys, them boys bought this ranch.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Their dad was an old sheep man.

ELAINE: They were trying to buy their way into the cattleman's grace. (Laughter)

NAOMI: Well they come in here, people come in here and ... and look at this barn, and they ... an old road and a fence ... and finally the historical society, and Oregon Society ... barn ... come out and shingled it, re-shingled it ... built a fence around it. ...

RED: Well it's a, quite a work of art. Now the way this thing is all, it's all hinged on that big old juniper post in the middle.

JACK: Yeah.

RED: That is, should have brought your metal detector, you might have found lots of things. Yes.

NAOMI: Evidently they had this all ... this year.

RED: Yeah.

JACK: You mean when old Pete used to bury his gold?

RED: Yeah.

NAOMI: ... there was a guy out there a walking.

JACK: Yeah, he's carrying a rifle.

RED: No, he's probably a duck hunter.

JACK: Yeah, or something.

ELAINE: They might be a ...

NAOMI: This had a porch or two on it the first time I saw it here. ...

RED: Oh, there was a big old house here at one time.

JACK: Huh.

RED: Yeah, there's a truck and combine right out there.

JACK: Yeah.

NAOMI: This is where we should have come to eat ... better eating.

JACK: (Laughter)

NAOMI: ...

JACK: Yeah.

RED: Boy, it's quite a barn.

... (Blank space on tape)

ELAINE: After this long drive, you'll have to take them to dinner tonight.

JACK: Yeah. ...

ELAINE: ...

JACK: I'm trying to get this ---

RED: I'm going to Diamond. I'm going to Diamond, I'm going ...

ELAINE: What's she going to do?

RED: Well Jack, ain't you taking pictures?

NAOMI: No, he's going to take the cigarettes and put them in the garbage can.

RED: Oh.

NAOMI: Helen had it clear full of ...

... (Conversation muffled)

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