

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #238 - Sides A/B

Subject: Clarence and Irene Gardner

Place: Gardner Home - Burns, Oregon

Date: September 16, 1988

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and I'm talking with Clarence and Irene Gardner, at their home in Burns, Oregon. Barbara Lofgren is with me, and we're trying to get some information on the Silvies Valley. The date is September 16, 1988. Okay, first Clarence, let me ask you your name, and your parent's names.

CLARENCE GARDNER: You want all of my name, or just my name?

DOROTHEA: Just your name.

CLARENCE: Clarence Gardner.

DOROTHEA: And Irene, you want to give me your name, and your maiden name?

IRENE GARDNER: Irene Scheckel Gardner. Irene Scheckel --- Gardner. Irene Gardner.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Who were your parents?

IRENE: John and Wilhelmina Scheckel.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and Clarence, what were your parent's names?

CLARENCE: Ben and Evie.

DOROTHEA: Evie?

CLARENCE: E V A.

DOROTHEA: E V A.

CLARENCE: Pronounce it however you want.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And Irene, where were you born?

IRENE: I was born in Silvies Valley at the ranch home, up in the canyon where Darrell and Gladys (Hopper) now live. I was born in that house.

DOROTHEA: Was that your parent's house at that time?

IRENE: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And Clarence, were you born in Harney County?

CLARENCE: I was born in the upper end of Silvies Valley. There's no house there anymore.

DOROTHEA: There's no house? What ---

CLARENCE: They tore the house down.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And where was it at, located?

CLARENCE: Well it was located north of the highway about a mile, and about a mile from the old Jack Craddock barn. Back up the canyon where there's two big pine trees. They're still there.

DOROTHEA: They are still there? Okay. Our purpose, as I told you and explained a little bit, is to get some history on Silvies Valley. So just let's reminisce a little bit and see what names we can come up with. And see if we can figure out at one time what the peak population of Silvies Valley was. Can you tell me also how Silvies got its name?

CLARENCE: I don't know.

DOROTHEA: You don't know?

IRENE: I've heard that, but I don't know either.

CLARENCE: I have too, but I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Well I looked up Silvies River, and it was named by a French fur trapper, I think he was. And his name was Antoine --- and it's S Y L V A I L L E. And I don't know whether that's Silvie, how they would pronounce it as a Sylvae, as a Frenchman, or how they would pronounce. But I'm not sure that's where Silvies got its name. Whether it's

from the same person, or how it got its name. So, this is something, I guess, we are going to have to check. Let's go down the mountain and name as many people as we can name as we travel down. Let's start --- What was the first house as you come out of the forest, can you remember? The first place that you would come to?

CLARENCE: Coming this way?

DOROTHEA: Going to Silvies Valley.

CLARENCE: Going to Silvies Valley?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

IRENE: Hardisty, wasn't it?

CLARENCE: Yeah, Hardisty was at the first place.

DOROTHEA: That was on the --- just as you come down over the mountain? Or ---

CLARENCE: You come down the old road on the mountain, and the first place was right under the hill there was Hardisty, Kemp Hardisty.

DOROTHEA: And the Camp Hardisty, I understand, was a man's name?

IRENE: Kemp, yes.

DOROTHEA: Kemp? Oh, Kemp.

IRENE: K E M P, I think it was, yes.

CLARENCE: Everybody called him Camp, but his name was Kemp.

IRENE: Kemp Hardisty.

DOROTHEA: Like Kemp?

IRENE: I believe it was, yes.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And then we went on to ---

CLARENCE: Cross'.

DOROTHEA: Cross'. And we don't --- do you remember his first name?

CLARENCE: I don't remember the old man --- I never knew old man Cross. The only one

I knew was Arch, and ---

IRENE: Albert.

CLARENCE: Albert.

DOROTHEA: That's all Clint (Purdy) could remember too, was just Arch and Albert, so ---

And Arch was married to Ida Baker?

CLARENCE: No.

IRENE: No.

DOROTHEA: No, Albert.

IRENE: Albert.

CLARENCE: Walter Cross.

IRENE: Was it Walter?

CLARENCE: That was the old man's name, I'm sure.

DOROTHEA: Walter?

CLARENCE: I remember your dad talking about Walter Cross.

IRENE: Walter Cross, uh huh.

CLARENCE: I don't think there was another boy, was there?

IRENE: I don't think so, huh uh.

DOROTHEA: Okay now, was the Dickenson Mill --- What we've known as the Dickenson Lumber Mill, and through in there, was that considered part of Silvie's Valley, or was that more or less Strawberry Mountain area, and not really considered ---

CLARENCE: You mean King Mountain area?

DOROTHEA: King Mountain area, whatever.

CLARENCE: Yeah. I don't really know. I don't really know if that was part of Silvie's Valley or not. It was farther south, down the canyon there, you know, quite a ways from

Hardisty's.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. How about up on the hill where the Roach Creek Flat is? Were there people living there at that time?

CLARENCE: Where's Roach Creek?

DOROTHEA: Just above Idle City.

CLARENCE: I don't think so, only just some miners.

DOROTHEA: Just miners?

CLARENCE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Clint couldn't remember if there was people established there at this time or not.

CLARENCE: There was just the --- The Williams boys had a mine, a couple of mines up there. And a --- what was that old Swede's name that had a mine up there? There was just two or three old miners that lived up there. I don't remember the old Swede's name, but I do remember the two Williams boys. Did Clinton know them, the Williams?

DOROTHEA: No. Like he said, he's probably the youngest of the group up there, and the only way he knows any of this is just by having his folks ---

CLARENCE: Well, I know they wasn't even up there then, they lived down here.

DOROTHEA: Huh uh. His folks repeat the names often enough to where he kind of got hold of them. But --- Okay, then we went on up to the Cross'. Then were there some people living down where our house used to be, like at the end of the Woods Field?

IRENE: Yes. Who lived there?

DOROTHEA: Clint thought maybe the reason the Woods Field was called the Woods Field was because the people's ---

CLARENCE: That's north of where you, where Wayne (Purdy) lives now, you mean?

DOROTHEA: Yes.

CLARENCE: I don't --- I don't ever remember anybody living there. The first people that lived down in there were Lamberts, that I knew of.

DOROTHEA: Okay. So then we have some more people where the --- Patton place is now, that belongs to some people by the name of Shambaugh, now. Was there some people living there, just before W. T. Lester and the Cochran place?

CLARENCE: Who owned that Patton place? ...

DOROTHEA: Then we had the Cochran, and I don't know what his name was, and he owned up in there where --- above where Charlie Adams had his place, which is now, belongs to Dr. White.

CLARENCE: Yeah, above that ---

DOROTHEA: Doris (Carlton) and Frank White.

CLARENCE: After --- was that the same place that --- them people, you know, she lived there for a long time, and --- alone. And he was a railroad man from Bend. What was their name Irene? She used to bring milk down over the hill in a cart.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's --- you're talking probably Forrest Alfrey.

CLARENCE: Yeah.

IRENE: Alfrey.

DOROTHEA: Above --- yeah, and I can't remember what her name was either. Carol (Purdy) could tell us all this, but I can't remember names that well. Well, he mentioned a lot of names. Do any of these names come to mind to you? He mentioned a --- he thought it was Earl Baschaun. Not recognize it?

IRENE: Huh uh.

DOROTHEA: A Roper?

CLARENCE: Bill Baschaun.

DOROTHEA: Bill Baschaun. Okay.

CLARENCE: Bill Baschaun. He lived quite a ways up in Silvie's Valley.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And a Roper, you couldn't remember?

CLARENCE: I can't remember them.

DOROTHEA: He thought maybe there might be a --- And there's a Vancil shack up there that now is nothing but a rock creek.

CLARENCE: That's on back on the creek ---

DOROTHEA: No, it's down above Wayne's.

CLARENCE: Where?

DOROTHEA: Above Wayne's, the Cross place. It's above --- east.

CLARENCE: The Vancil shack.

DOROTHEA: Vancil. Uh huh. They used to have a corral out there and now it's mostly owned by rock chucks. (Laughter) Rock chucks. CLARENCE: Gosh, I don't know who --

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DOROTHEA: There's quite a creek, and a pond, beaver pond up there --- And we call it the --- Vancil shack is what we call it.

CLARENCE: I didn't even know that that was there. I knew the Vancils, all of them.

DOROTHEA: Up at the, probably southeast end of the Hardisty field. As you go out of the Hardisty field. And then we have the Purdy's. And the PLS Company, at one time owned what Shetkey bought. Do you remember the man that bought the place with Shetkey?

IRENE: Fisher.

DOROTHEA: Fisher?

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember his first name?

CLARENCE: I never knew it. All I knew was Shetkey and Fisher.

DOROTHEA: Just Fisher, huh? Shetkey and Fisher?

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And, then your dad's place, John Scheckels. And how did he come about having this place?

IRENE: He bought it from Dave Craddock, well from Chet Craddock.

CLARENCE: Chet Craddock.

IRENE: But it was the Dave Craddock place. And how Chet got it, I don't know. Did Chet buy it, or ---

CLARENCE: Yeah, Chet bought the Dave Craddock place when they left.

IRENE: When Dave Craddock left?

DOROTHEA: And who's Dave Craddock? Is that a brother or dad, or

CLARENCE: That was an uncle of Chet's.

DOROTHEA: Uncle.

IRENE: Of Chet's. A brother to ---

CLARENCE: Jack's brother.

IRENE: --- Jack.

DOROTHEA: Jack Craddock.

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Barbara, are you getting all of these names now?

CLARENCE: You see there was at one time in Silvies Valley, when I was a small boy; there was Dave Craddock, Jack Craddock, Ben Craddock, Mike Craddock, and George Craddock, all brothers.

BARBARA LOFGREN: A large family.

IRENE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: All boys?

CLARENCE: And that was a bunch of Craddocks, all brothers.

IRENE: They were all from where?

CLARENCE: Arkansas.

IRENE: Arkansas.

BARBARA: There were no girls in the family?

CLARENCE: Oh yeah, there was some girls. In fact I knew one girl, Annie Craddock, back in Arkansas. I don't know whether there was anymore than Annie or not. But I --- I met Annie when I was working for Chet. We went back after a bunch of bulls.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now where does Easter come in? She was a Craddock, but did she live up there?

CLARENCE: She was Jack Craddock's daughter.

DOROTHEA: She was Jack Craddock's daughter.

IRENE: She was a sister to Chet Craddock.

CLARENCE: A sister to Chet.

IRENE: I thought maybe you could go to her and get a lot of this.

DOROTHEA: Well, I am going to. I'm going to call her. I started to call her today, and I ran out of time. I don't know what I was doing, but I ran out of time. Okay, now we've got El Hopper, and Clint couldn't remember where he lived, or whether they were already settled there. Whether the boys was born in the valley--- Could you give us some information on them?

IRENE: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Wasn't all those kids born right there?

IRENE: Yes, I don't know how to explain it. It was north of our place. North, let's see, not exactly straight north, northwest of our place, wasn't it?

CLARENCE: Yeah, it'd be northwest.

IRENE: Northwest of where we were born. And I ---

DOROTHEA: Where Darrell lives now?

IRENE: Of where Darrell lives now. What was the name of the creek they were born on? That house, it's all torn down now.

CLARENCE: I don't know what they called that little old --- it was just kind of a little old spring branch, you know, coming down through there.

IRENE: But Forrest would be able to tell you, or Darrell that, I'm sure.

DOROTHEA: And this is where El and his family lived?

IRENE: Uh huh. Part of the time.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember what his wife's name was?

IRENE: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Maude.

IRENE: Maude, yes. Maude Beavers Hopper. Maude Beavers.

DOROTHEA: And was she a local girl, or was she a ---

IRENE: Now that I don't know. But Mrs. Beavers, her mother, came and lived with them for a while, so ---

DOROTHEA: Well Ralph (Hankins) said something about, the only strangers in the valley was the school marms that came in, and everyone that came in got married. (Laughter)

CLARENCE: And he married one of them.

DOROTHEA: And he married one of them, so it was kind of interesting. He said --- We asked could remember any of the teacher's names, and he said they came and went so fast that there was a new one every year, so --- Okay, and Maude and El had just the two boys, or how many Hoppers was ---

IRENE: No, they had five children.

DOROTHEA: Five children?

IRENE: Uh huh, there was Zelma the oldest, and Hazel, and they are both dead now. Then Forrest, and Iris Woods.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I forgot about Iris.

IRENE: And then Darrell, of course.

CLARENCE: There was one that died at birth, wasn't there?

IRENE: I think so, yes.

CLARENCE: It was buried upon the hill, back in Camp Creek.

IRENE: I believe so, I don't remember the name.

DOROTHEA: And Forrest was married to Ivy Johnson, right?

IRENE: Yes. And Zelma was married to a Brown. What was his first name?

CLARENCE: Don Brown.

IRENE: Yeah, that's right, Don Brown. And Hazel was married to a McCrola. Uh --- what?

CLARENCE: Craig.

IRENE: Craig McCrola.

DOROTHEA: Now did they live in Mt. Vernon for a while?

IRENE: Yes, they lived in ---

CLARENCE: Seneca.

IRENE: Seneca, and then they moved to Mt. Vernon.

DOROTHEA: I thought I recognized that name. Okay, now back to where we were down to the Hoppers. There was a Tagget on Spring Creek, and a Leroy Brandt. Do you recognize, do you know ---

CLARENCE: Leroy Brandt was the bootlegger.

DOROTHEA: He was the bootlegger. Okay. (Laughter)

BARBARA: There's always one in every place, isn't there? (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: His place, I think, is still standing.

CLARENCE: Leroy Brandt's?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Well, just some of it.

DOROTHEA: Part of it.

CLARENCE: Just a little of it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Did your dad at one time have the Brandt place?

IRENE: He bought the Brandt place, didn't he, Dad?

CLARENCE: No, Purdy's got that.

IRENE: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Well I thought your dad had it at first, and then ---

CLARENCE: I don't think so.

DOROTHEA: Then Dad (Purdy) got it. But I don't know, I could be mis--- If Clinton hears this, he'll say, "You knew better than that." But let's drop that, so --- Okay, there was a Tagget. Now Clint thought his name was Bill.

CLARENCE: That sounds right. Yeah. I don't much remember him. No, now that sounds like it was Bill Tagget.

DOROTHEA: And where did he --- where was his place at?

CLARENCE: Really I couldn't tell you. I just kind of knew about him, and that was it. But I think, didn't your dad own the Tagget place?

IRENE: Seems like he did. But I don't know exactly where it was either. It was back in there where the Gibson's were, wasn't it, in there?

CLARENCE: That's what I was thinking. It was in there ---

IRENE: Where the Gibson's, and back of the Buckley place.

CLARENCE: On that mahogany butte someplace.

DOROTHEA: On that mahogany butte? That's up behind Mervin (Purdy) and in there.

CLARENCE: Uh huh. Yeah, north of Mervin.

DOROTHEA: Okay, he also remembered a Buckley.

IRENE: Uh huh. Now Dad got the Buckley place.

DOROTHEA: Okay, your dad had the Buckley place.

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And do you remember his first name? Was he married, did he have any children?

IRENE: I don't think Buckley had any children, but he was married.

CLARENCE: He was married.

IRENE: Uh huh. I remember they said that --- now I hope I have this right. That Mrs. Buckley had not been off the place for 17 years. They said that when she came there she stayed on the Buckley place that long, and worked. And when she left they took her in a wagon, in a good-sized wagon, in her rocking chair because she was quite old by that time. And they started the team up quick, and the rocking chair went over backwards and she fell out of the wagon backwards.

DOROTHEA: Oh. She probably didn't want to leave again then, for another 17 years.
(Laughter)

IRENE: But they moved to either John Day or Canyon City.

CLARENCE: Someplace over there.

IRENE: And Dad went to see them a few times after they moved. But I never knew them. That was before I was old enough to know anybody.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

IRENE: I think probably I was born, but I never knew them.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CLARENCE: Then there was the O'Farrell place back in there.

DOROTHEA: Now that's ---

CLARENCE: Bob O'Farrell, Dad owned it.

DOROTHEA: O' F A R R E L L ? Bob. And that's down in Spring Creek?

CLARENCE: That's ---

DOROTHEA: By?

CLARENCE: Back of the Brandt place, and a little bit north.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now that was one that Clint couldn't remember either, so ---

IRENE: Then there's the Newell place that Dad got.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, okay. Yeah, I remember that name now, Clint forgot that one too.

IRENE: And the Ruckers lived over there someplace.

DOROTHEA: Do you know how to spell Ruckers?

IRENE: R U C K E R I believe it was, Rucker.

CLARENCE: Then there was the Hess place.

DOROTHEA: The what?

CLARENCE: Pete Hess. A little cabin set up there on the --- What the heck is the name of the creek that comes down across the highway there? From the Buckley place, comes through the Buckley place? Was that Mountain Creek? Yeah.

IRENE: Mountain Creek, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Yeah, that ---

CLARENCE: The Pete Hess place was right above the Buckley place on Mountain Creek.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Okay.

CLARENCE: The cabin was about as big as --- not quite as big as this whole room.

(About 12' x 12'.)

BARBARA: That's small.

IRENE: Right. (Laughter)

BARBARA: For a whole house.

DOROTHEA: Now was there a Green up in there?

CLARENCE: Grant Green.

IRENE: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: He later owned the Bob O'Farrell place.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

CLARENCE: He was married to Bob O'Farrell's daughter.

DOROTHEA: And then we have the Gibson's. And Clint thought there was three Gibson's up there. He though Babe, and Buzz, and the Dad. Now ---

CLARENCE: Babe and Buzz, and Bill, and Ed.

DOROTHEA: Bill and Ed. Okay. There was four, and all of them had their own place?

CLARENCE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Now that's when we got company, and --- and he said, about that time, he said that there was a stage stop in, on the west side of Mountain Creek now. And the Tracey's lived around where the stage stop was. And that's when we got company, and I didn't get any more, so ---

IRENE: Well I've heard Dad talk about the Tracey place, and I can't remember where that was.

CLARENCE: The Tracey place belonged to the PLS Company. And then it belonged to Slim Shetkey. The Tracey place is across the river from the mouth of Mountain Creek.

IRENE: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Was that at one time a stage stop?

CLARENCE: Could have been. I don't really --- if it was it was before my time.

IRENE: You don't want to forget Wintermeier in there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

IRENE: John Wintermeier place.

DOROTHEA: I think I've got his name written down here someplace too.

IRENE: Probably.

DOROTHEA: And also we forgot the --- the Edward Hines Section Camp. But what, approximately --- that didn't come in until probably what, the '29's or around in there?

IRENE: Let's see.

CLARENCE: What now?

DOROTHEA: The Section Camp.

CLARENCE: Oh, the Section Camp? Yeah, let's see now, when did the railroad come through Silvies?

DOROTHEA: Ralph thought they started building it in about 1926. But Herrick bought the mill, and then Edward Hines bought it, and I think they finished ---

CLARENCE: Herrick started it.

DOROTHEA: Started the mill, yeah.

CLARENCE: Edward Hines bought it, and I can't remember what year, but I know I was in grade school over across the river there when they --- We had a bunch of kids in the grade school up there from the people that was working on the railroad track, and building those bridges and stuff like that. And then when the train come through, I ---

IRENE: I was 8 years old when it came through, that would be '27 when it was in Silvies, I know, when it was in Silvies.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so it did get started in the '20's, maybe in '26 approximately.

IRENE: Probably from Seneca, or through there. But in Silvies, I remember Dad and

Mother and us kids went over to look at it, to go through --- They were laying the track, or working on it. And I was 8 years old at the time. I fell in a great big hole that was --- A lot of snow on the ground, and we couldn't see the hole, and I just fit in the hole up to here (armpits). So --- (Laughter)

CLARENCE: That was the --- I was trying to think what teacher I had the year that the train come through there. Had too many she teachers.

BARBARA: One every year.

CLARENCE: One year I had three. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh, my. You must have really been hard on them.

IRENE: They were.

CLARENCE: I'll tell you, I ... much kids --- I was in that school.

BARBARA: How many children were usually in your class?

CLARENCE: Oh, our school usually had a --- Well there was the Johnson's and the McVeys, and they was all there, and me, and that was about 11 or 12. And then there was the --- of course there was people coming over there, and sometimes there would be 14 or 16 kids in the school there. Then when the railroad was going through and all them bridge workers was there, why --- Oh, that poor teacher had a --- They sat on blocks of wood.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she had a full classroom?

CLARENCE: She had a full schoolhouse.

DOROTHEA: Well we're doing pretty good, we're getting quite a bunch of people in there. So ---

CLARENCE: Well now above the Silvies Store, or have you got that far yet? You know where the --- Ralph probably give you about the Bennett place, didn't he?

DOROTHEA: Well he said something about the Bennett place. Yeah, and I never did get

into my head where that was.

CLARENCE: The Bennett place?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: It's where Chet Craddock used to live.

DOROTHEA: That's where the red barn is?

CLARENCE: Yes, that's where the big barn burned down.

IRENE: No, the red barn is where Jack Craddock lived.

DOROTHEA: Jack Craddock? Okay.

CLARENCE: Jack Craddock lived right east of the Store, where the, east and a little bit south of the store. Right over there where they tore the old house down, and then they put up a house on the hill there. Used to be a great --- two big barns up there, and one of them burned down. But that was the old Bennett place. That was where the --- Frank Bennett, and --- well the old man's name --- was named Billy Bennett, they called him. What was her name?

IRENE: Katie. No, that was the kid. The daughter was Katie. I don't remember what her's was.

CLARENCE: I can remember --- The main thing that I can remember about her was she was such a little bitty old woman. And the nicest and sweetest old gal in the world.

IRENE: But there was Cecil, and Frank, and Katie and ---

CLARENCE: Huh. Cecil, and Frank, and Katie, and Bob, and ---

IRENE: Ellis.

CLARENCE: Ellis and Chester.

IRENE: There was only the one girl.

CLARENCE: There's one more some place. Merle.

DOROTHEA: Merle.

IRENE: Yeah, that's right. He was school superintendent over here for years.

CLARENCE: There was seven of them.

IRENE: Yeah, uh huh, that's seven.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. What was Mrs. Bennett's name? You couldn't remember that?

IRENE: I can't remember that, no. I was thinking of Katie, but that's the daughter.

CLARENCE: Chester is the only one of the old Bennett family alive.

DOROTHEA: Oh, is he?

CLARENCE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: He doesn't live here?

CLARENCE: No, he lives somewhere up, I think in Washington.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I know Ellis and Bob, and Cecil and Frank, they are all gone, so ---

IRENE: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: And Merle.

DOROTHEA: Merle. Now Merle, he spelled his name a little different.

IRENE: I think it was M E R L E, wasn't it?

DOROTHEA: I think he spelled it a little different than we usually are used to spelling it.

Now there ---

CLARENCE: Now which is Stan Bennett's dad, Bob?

IRENE: Bob.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and there is a Keith Bennett. And he's --- belongs to ---

IRENE: To Cecil and Trilby. But, ah --- he was adopted wasn't he?

CLARENCE: Keith?

IRENE: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Oh no.

IRENE: Oh, he was theirs?

DOROTHEA: No, that was the ---

CLARENCE: Miller.

DOROTHEA: Miller boy.

IRENE: Oh yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And he's gone too.

IRENE: Uh huh. And ---

CLARENCE: All of Cecil's kids is gone.

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Now where did the --- Oh, what was their name? Lila Tilley's mother was, I think, married to one of them. Delaney?

CLARENCE: Delaney, I never knew they lived in Silvies.

DOROTHEA: They didn't belong up there? Okay, okay. That barn that they moved was past Silvies Store, and it was on the right hand side, or east side of the road. It was a big barn, and they moved it, I think, down to Bridge Creek. Did that belong to some-body?

IRENE: That was Chester's.

DOROTHEA: That was Chester Bennett's?

IRENE: No, Chester Craddock ---

DOROTHEA: Craddock.

IRENE: --- moved that. The big barn that you talked about that burned down.

CLARENCE: Oh, that barn come from Camp One.

DOROTHEA: Where's that?

CLARENCE: Huh? Oh, that's up in Bear Valley where they sawed all the timber to make this sawmill.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

IRENE: Well, but they moved it down there, isn't that what you said?

DOROTHEA: They moved a barn, yeah.

CLARENCE: They moved the schoolhouse in one piece. But that barn was all torn down and moved. I helped tear that barn down.

IRENE: But it was moved down.

CLARENCE: It was moved down, yeah.

IRENE: Uh huh, that's what ---

CLARENCE: The big barn that Chet Craddock had that burned down, was the barn that they kept the horses in at Camp One, and they had 36 head of horses up there, work horses. Big, big, great big skidding horses.

DOROTHEA: Now these were --- this was at Bear Valley?

CLARENCE: Yeah, that was in Bear Valley. That's above ---

DOROTHEA: Bear Valley, that's above Seneca, yeah.

CLARENCE: That's where that big barn come from was Camp One.

DOROTHEA: Okay. About where did they stop as far as Silvies Valley went? Was that just above Camp Creek, or ---

CLARENCE: Yeah. Ah --- McVey had a place on the west side of Camp Creek. Back up there, right in the foothills of Silvies Valley. And then on the east side of Silvies Valley, about two and a half or three miles from our place on Cottonwood Creek, was the Johnson family, when I went to school. I went to school with the Johnson kids. Before the Johnson kids, it was Ralph Hankins' uncle lived on that place, Ernest Hankins.

DOROTHEA: Ernest?

CLARENCE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Now see, he didn't say anything about Ernest.

CLARENCE: I think Ernest Hankins took that place up as a homestead.

DOROTHEA: And that's above there. Then the store, of course, wasn't there. Do you

remember what year they put the store in maybe?

CLARENCE: Well, you know, Hankins had a store there ever since I can just about remember.

IRENE: Uh huh, kind of a store first. Just before the highway went in there, I don't know how much they sold there.

CLARENCE: They had food ---

IRENE: Flour and stuff. Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Gas, and stuff like that. And they had it down there by, well you know where the new house is, the Shetkey house is setting now? Well that's just almost exactly where the old store was.

DOROTHEA: Oh, it didn't set right out close to the highway?

CLARENCE: No, it didn't set on the highway, the first one.

IRENE: Well that was before the highway went through there.

CLARENCE: Then when the highway went through, well they built the store just this side of where the store is now, back in a hole there. And then Ralph tore that down when he built the new store.

DOROTHEA: So ---

CLARENCE: Then Ralph built this place.

DOROTHEA: He and Frankie more or less made that their home and put a store on the front of it.

CLARENCE: Yeah.

IRENE: Uh huh. But now you've skipped the John Hoppers, and the George Hankins' place, and the Camblins.

DOROTHEA: Now where was the John Hoppers?

CLARENCE: He lived on Flat Creek.

IRENE: He was on the west side of the highway.

CLARENCE: Away back up on Flat Creek.

DOROTHEA: And that's ---

CLARENCE: El Hopper's brother.

DOROTHEA: El Hopper's brother.

IRENE: And he wasn't married.

DOROTHEA: So he didn't have --- Well at one time were there as many as seventy-five families living up there? Or just seventy-five people, counting ---

IRENE: I don't think there were ever seventy-five families. No.

DOROTHEA: There wasn't that many?

CLARENCE: No, I don't think so.

IRENE: Huh uh. We figured there were around twenty-two or three families, didn't we, when we counted it one time?

CLARENCE: I think so.

IRENE: Or I mean residents.

DOROTHEA: Carol said something about that up there at one time. Mom had counted up and she thought there was about, or could have been ---

IRENE: Not that I could remember, huh uh.

CLARENCE: Not to my knowledge.

DOROTHEA: But Clinton told me no. He said no, he said it was more like about seventy-five at the very most, and that's including all the schoolteachers that came and went. So -
--

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How many schools can you remember being up there?

IRENE: Three.

DOROTHEA: Three? And can you tell me about where they were?

CLARENCE: Well, your school was over ---

IRENE: Well our school was moved around to wherever was most convenient for the children. It was first in a little cabin, probably not as big as this room that was between the Hopper place and our place. Then Hoppers moved down to the Bennett place, or where Chet Craddock is. So we had school in the Hopper house then. And then when they moved back, the little cabin was too small, so we had school in my dad's folk's house. They had moved to Portland. Now you skipped them too. That was Philip and Mary Scheckel. And they had a ranch, and Dad bought that ranch when they moved to Portland, or to Oregon City it should be. And we had school there for a good many years. And one year we went to school over across the highway, where the old Grange Hall is, you know, or schoolhouse is over there. It's still standing, barely, but it's still standing. We went one year there because part of the children lived a --- Spains lived across the highway, over by the railroad track on the Camblin place. Now you didn't get the Camblin either.

DOROTHEA: Okay, spell that.

IRENE: C --- Camblin. C A M B L I N wasn't it?

CLARENCE: I think that's right.

IRENE: Camblin, I believe that's right. And I can't remember the father's name, but there was George and Verne Camblin, weren't there?

CLARENCE: Dan Camblin.

IRENE: Oh, yeah, Dan Camblin.

CLARENCE: What was Mrs. Camblin's name? I used to remember it too, but I can't remember it.

IRENE: I don't remember that.

CLARENCE: There was George and Verne, and Lorna and Gladys.

IRENE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Lina?

IRENE: Lorna.

DOROTHEA: Lorna.

IRENE: Lorna Camblin. And Gladys Camblin, that's right. But I can't remember the mother's name.

DOROTHEA: Well now, did all these people live up there at one time?

IRENE: No, I don't think so, they --- Especially those homesteaders would come and go. Like Buckley's left before --- you see so many of them. And --- oh, the Gibson's left then, and ---

CLARENCE: Well the Gibson's left there when I was about 14 or 15 years old.

IRENE: You don't have the Miranda place either, do you?

DOROTHEA: Nope, forgot that.

IRENE: And the Charles Owens place.

DOROTHEA: Charlie Owens, right.

IRENE: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Jim and Charlie Miranda.

IRENE: Uh huh. They were all bachelors, but they had a place over there.

DOROTHEA: Mirand---

IRENE: Let's see, I don't know --- M E R A N D I was it? Merandi, or D Y ? Miranda? I'm not sure how that was spelled.

CLARENCE: Craig Fulton.

IRENE: Oh yeah, there was the Fulton place.

CLARENCE: He was a bachelor.

DOROTHEA: C R A I G ?

IRENE: I thought it was --- was it Craig?

DOROTHEA: And he was a bachelor?

CLARENCE: And then there was Gustafason. You know the Swede place up along the -

--

IRENE: Uh huh. Gust-a-fa-son.

CLARENCE: Yeah, and he married a Cross girl.

IRENE: Oh, did he? I didn't know that. Gustafason.

CLARENCE: Mabel.

IRENE: Oh, Mabel Cross?

CLARENCE: Mabel Cross.

IRENE: Oh, I thought her married name was Hunter, but maybe I'm wrong.

CLARENCE: Huh?

DOROTHEA: No, that a --- oh!

IRENE: Oh yeah, that's another one.

DOROTHEA: The other one. Yeah.

IRENE: Uh huh. I can't think of her name now. That's right, he just died.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

IRENE: Hunter did? Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Now this was stuff that your dad told me about, Gustafason and Mabel Cross. Of course your dad was kind of looking for, looking at Mabel Cross. (Laughter)

IRENE: That's going on that ---

DOROTHEA: (Laughter)

CLARENCE: Her dad used to tell me all kinds of things.

DOROTHEA: Oh, all kinds of secrets. (Laughter) Now do you have more than one

sister, Irene?

IRENE: No, just Freda.

DOROTHEA: Just the one sister?

IRENE: Freda Sword. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Freda. F R ---

IRENE: Well it's really Elfreda. E L F R E D A Sword.

DOROTHEA: And where did your dad meet your mother? Was she a school teacher, or

IRENE: No, she lived at Drewsey, or this side of Drewsey, 10, about 10 miles. And Dad used to go to dances, he really liked to dance. And he used to go over the mountain to dances to where Gearharts lived, because the Gearharts played. And there were dances over there at different places, and that's where he met her.

DOROTHEA: And what was her maiden name then?

IRENE: Muller. Wilhelmina Muller.

DOROTHEA: Muller?

IRENE: Uh huh, M U L L E R.

DOROTHEA: Okay. I'm running out of paper. (Laughter)

IRENE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Now was he born in the valley then, or ---

IRENE: No, he was 21 years old when he came from South Dakota with his folks.

DOROTHEA: He came from South Dakota. And did they then homestead a place?

IRENE: Yes, and that's Philip and Mary Scheckel, that I told you about. They bought a place there. I don't know who built the house; the house was already there. And do you remember who built that house?

CLARENCE: I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Barbara is going to be typing most of this, so do you want to spell Scheckel for her?

IRENE: S C H E C K E L.

DOROTHEA: I know I've got it written down here someplace.

BARBARA: S C H E C ---

IRENE: E C K. E C K E L.

DOROTHEA: And that was John?

IRENE: Yeah, John V. Scheckel.

BARBARA: B?

IRENE: V. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now where are we at? Oh, we don't have any of the Pierces down there. Now I've got Ned and Leao, those are the boys. Who are the parents?

CLARENCE: Andrew and Lizza.

IRENE: It's odd that Ralph didn't give you all of this.

CLARENCE: I can't figure that out either.

IRENE: Huh uh.

DOROTHEA: Well, I don't know. I think we mostly talked about Christmas trees and things that he more or less remembered as, you know, a young boy. And some of the things that ---

CLARENCE: There was six Pierces.

DOROTHEA: Six?

CLARENCE: Yeah.

IRENE: His mother's name was Clara. Now he gave that surely to you.

DOROTHEA: Clara, yeah, Hankins. Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Then there was Amy, she was married to a Keaton, a cousin of mine. And

Nellie and Jim Pierce, he was the oldest one of the family.

DOROTHEA: Now are any of them besides Leao still alive? Just all gone? And Leao spells his name L A E O ?

IRENE: L E A O.

DOROTHEA: L E A O. Okay, I got that backwards. E A O, okay. And they lived up on Camp Creek, right?

CLARENCE: Pierces?

DOROTHEA: Where did they live? Yeah.

CLARENCE: No, when you stand at the Silvies Store and you look right straight west over against the hill, and there is two or three little old cabins over there, is where they lived.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Right up on a bare hillside. They had a well fifty feet deep that went dry every year.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

CLARENCE: (Laughter) Now how did you like that one? (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that sounds about ---

BARBARA: That wouldn't be very much fun.

CLARENCE: They had to haul water every --- I can't ever remember a year while I was up there that them old people didn't have to haul water in a wooden barrel they had.

DOROTHEA: Okay now, is that most --- just about all of the people that ---

IRENE: No, you didn't get Ned and Annie Pierce, which is his ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, now I've got them someplace in here. I've got Ned and Annie.

IRENE: Oh. And his brother Aaron Gardner.

DOROTHEA: Okay, well I don't have your folks either. So how did they --- Did they

homestead up there?

CLARENCE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: They homesteaded? And Aaron?

CLARENCE: Aaron, yeah.

IRENE: A A R O N.

DOROTHEA: Gardner. How many brothers and sisters did you have?

CLARENCE: Well I had, that I knew, I knew that I had brothers and sisters that died before I was born. But I knew there was Annie and "A" and I. But there --- I don't even know what the other kid's names was.

IRENE: Well if you want them, they are in that black book Clarence, that's in that middle drawer.

DOROTHEA: Did they die as children? Or ---

CLARENCE: They just died as they were born.

DOROTHEA: Little?

IRENE: Babies, yeah.

DOROTHEA: No, that's all right.

CLARENCE: They never come to Silvies Valley.

DOROTHEA: And Annie was?

CLARENCE: Ned Pierce's wife.

DOROTHEA: Ned Pierce's wife. Okay, I've got that written down here somewhere.

IRENE: And they had one son, Frank, is all they had.

DOROTHEA: Frank, the one that's deaf?

IRENE: Uh huh. The deaf mute.

CLARENCE: Deaf and blind.

DOROTHEA: Blind?

IRENE: Now he is. He wasn't until just ---

DOROTHEA: He wasn't at that time?

IRENE: Huh uh. Let's see, who else don't you have?

CLARENCE: Happiest man in the world.

DOROTHEA: Is he still alive?

IRENE: Uh huh. He's still alive. They live in Portland now. They sold their place over at Canyon City, this side of Canyon City, when he went blind. And they live in Portland close to her sister. See she doesn't drive, and of course he doesn't drive now. And they can walk to the market there, and shopping mall, I guess.

DOROTHEA: It used to amaze me. I know when I was younger, you know, well I'd, well when Clinton and I was first married, and I went to, we were doctoring over there, and we'd see them standing on the street, and here they would be going like this (using sign language).

CLARENCE: Always talking.

DOROTHEA: You know, I --- talked all the time, they did.

CLARENCE: The most happy guy there ever was.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. You know, he was always on the street talking to somebody.

IRENE: And driving the car, and doing this. (Hand signs)

DOROTHEA: Like this, (more sign language) and every time you'd see him, this was is what they were doing, you know. And I often thought that would be the most wonderful thing to learn, is that sign language.

IRENE: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Look at his kids. Every one of them can just talk the same way.

DOROTHEA: I know it, I know it.

CLARENCE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I think that's marvelous that they can converse like that.

IRENE: Uh huh. But boy you have to keep up with that, use it all the time.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I'll bet.

CLARENCE: Yeah, you sure do. I used to talk some of that too, but gosh I ---

SIDE B

...

DOROTHEA: George Hankins, was that a brother?

CLARENCE: No, they were cousins of Del, wasn't they?

IRENE: George and Pleas were cousins to Del.

CLARENCE: Yeah, they were brothers, George and Pleas.

DOROTHEA: Okay. George and Pleas, okay.

CLARENCE: They were cousins to Del.

DOROTHEA: I've got his name down here someplace, Pleasantine. Now I wonder how you spell that?

IRENE: I don't know. But what a name to give a man. Just like Dad's middle name, that "V" is Valentine. He never would use it, but he says it's a wonderful initial. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Oh, it is, it is.

IRENE: Uh huh. But he'd never use the name Valentine. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That's as bad as calling, "A Boy Named Sue!"

IRENE: Yes, that's terrible.

CLARENCE: Who?

IRENE: "A Boy Named Sue," that song. Who was the man that was going to start the peach orchard? I can't think of his name. That W. T. Lester --- and Dad bought the place from him. There are several ---

DOROTHEA: I've heard of that story, but I can't remember his name.

CLARENCE: I can almost say it, but I can't think.

IRENE: It starts with a "H", doesn't it? But anyway, Dad bought him out. He came there and was going to --- W. T. Lester told him he could raise peaches there, and he was going to raise a big peach orchard. And Dad finally convinced him that it was impossible, and so he sold out to dad then.

CLARENCE: That was up on --- above the Buckley place?

IRENE: Uh huh. Back in there someplace.

CLARENCE: Back in there, back of the Buckley place. The only thing he ever got to grow there was rhubarb.

IRENE: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: The prettiest rhubarb you ever ---

DOROTHEA: It was warmer up there, though. You know up behind the Brandt and up in there, it was warmer, and gorgeous country.

IRENE: Yes, uh huh.

CLARENCE: Newell Creek.

IRENE: Yeah, on Newell Creek, but ---

CLARENCE: But on Newell Creek this guy had this much of the creek come right around like that. And he had a place about, oh, I don't know, a hundred feet long right between the creeks, and he had rhubarb planted in there, the prettiest rhubarb that was.

IRENE: I want to say Hamilton, but it isn't Hamilton. Can't remember it now.

DOROTHEA: I've heard of him, but I can't remember the name.

BARBARA: What all did the people do up in Silvies Valley to make a living? Were there miners, or work in the timber, or just ranching?

CLARENCE: No, just raise their gardens, or raised their livings, you might say.

BARBARA: Had cows, and raised hay, and that sort of things?

IRENE: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: My folks, my dad, just worked every place for a living, and my mother raised a garden up there like you wouldn't believe. And, you know, I mean like carrots and beets, and turnips, and rutabagas, and cabbage, and cauliflower, and stuff like that. She raised all that. Beans, peas ---

IRENE: Well you see that --- their house was between those two hills, canyons. It was right down the canyon, and the creek came right down by, and it was protected. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Kind of like up on the Hardisty place. It was kind of --- there's a hot spring that comes down through there too. Carol was going to try to raise a garden up there one year when Donna first moved back home, and Donna never would help with it, so she didn't raise much.

CLARENCE: Irene and I went up to the old place there, Memorial Day, wasn't it?

IRENE: Uh huh. When we came back, to his old place.

CLARENCE: My folk's old place. And we walked clean up to the spring, and the water didn't even get down a tenth of the way to the garden then.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. I think that the country is drying up a little bit, you know, compared to what it used to be like.

CLARENCE: I know that used to be a wonderful spring there.

DOROTHEA: I know I don't think they have near the cold weather that they used to have, even when we first moved up there and that was in --- I think it was '61 when we first moved up there. It was down like 55 below zero. And then the year Valri (Purdy) was born, which was 1970, I think it was down to 35, and I'm not too sure, but that's about as cold as its been since we've lived there.

IRENE: I remember that. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I know Clint went up in the hills in Seneca, and he was trying to start their Cats, and one or two days they never did get the things started. And then when they did, they just left them running because it was 62 below zero.

IRENE: Up there it was 62?

DOROTHEA: Up in the hills in Seneca, yeah. But you don't hear of this any more.

IRENE: Any more, not that cold, no.

DOROTHEA: Ralph was saying something about before they put the road through, well I think it was the Craddocks that they got together with, and they put a "V" on six or eight horses, and that's how they plowed the roads for them to get their cars and buggies and things through.

CLARENCE: Sleds through.

DOROTHEA: Sleds through.

CLARENCE: That was one thing that my dad did for years, when I was just real small kid, before I went to school. He drove the stage from, in the wintertime, from Canyon City to Burns. And the stage station, one of the stage stations then, was at the Southworth place, and the other stage station was at the Hardisty place.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Yeah, I knew there was one at the Hardisty place.

CLARENCE: And at a time or --- at one time I think they had a stage station at the Cross place too, instead of Hardisty's.

DOROTHEA: Did they? I was wondering about Shorty's, was that ever a stage stop?

CLARENCE: About who?

DOROTHEA: Shorty Mitchell's. Behind --- up in there? Because I know that's where the stage road used to come down through.

CLARENCE: Hoppers used to have the post office, you know.

IRENE: Yes, they had the post office for years. Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Well when they had the Bennett place, and the post office there, that was a stage stop, wasn't it? Yeah, I think so.

IRENE: I imagine, yes. Uh huh.

CLARENCE: I know Dad used to heat rocks, them rocks from down on Canyon Creek, them big round rocks, he used to heat those rocks in the night in John Day or Canyon City, and put them in the bottom of the sled or the wagon. He had to come up to the fish hatchery up there, the old fish hatchery with the hack, and then change to the sled, and put those rocks in there, and that's the way he kept his feet warm.

DOROTHEA: But that's what Ralph said they took this "V" and they plowed the snow out, and it was really deep. And I can remember when the snow used to get over the top of the fence posts.

CLARENCE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And in order to feed your cattle you'd have to break trail, or else see if you could get across the top of the fence posts. And you couldn't keep a cow anywhere, because she would just go back and forth across the fence posts. And I haven't seen snow like that for years.

CLARENCE: Well, how come this lake raised so much? That's what gets me, was ---

DOROTHEA: The same thing.

CLARENCE: You know when I was a kid, we went across the river, I went across the river over on --- the schoolhouse set on a knob over there. The damndest place for a schoolhouse you've ever seen. The schoolhouse set up four steps off of the ground. And there was no --- nothing around under that, around the bottom of that school-house, the wind blew through there a hundred mile an hour all winter long. So you set there with your feet upon a block of wood behind the stove in order to keep from freezing to death. That's where I got my education. Didn't get much.

DOROTHEA: Behind the stove. (Laughter)

IRENE: Out behind the stove, instead of behind the barn.

CLARENCE: Now that schoolhouse, Dorothea, is the garage that sets behind the store.

DOROTHEA: Well that's the one that Ralph said he hauled up behind there, yeah.

CLARENCE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay, because I --- Now I remembered that was a schoolhouse, but I couldn't remember where it had been.

CLARENCE: Well they moved it; they moved it from back up there down to just this side of the store there. Oh, just kind of over the hill over there the other side of the --- It'd be just this side of the road that goes down to house where them people live.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Out there kind of on a little level plot, wasn't it? There's a --- I worked on the WPA, and dug a well there, helped with it. But that's what I told the girl at an auction sale up there, and she started to have me fill out a card, and I said, "You better fill this card out," I said, "all the education I got was in this schoolhouse." And she said, "I'll fill it out." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well about what grade did most of the kids in that area go to? Did they come on into Burns, or John Day, or Canyon, or--- to get their high school, or did they even go on to high school?

CLARENCE: I never went to high school.

IRENE: But Freda and I, and Forrest went to high school three years, right there at the, where the Silvies Store is now, where the schoolhouse was. And we had to hire a teacher that could teach both high school and grade school. And at the time there was the three of us in high school, and only two, Darrell and Jack Hankins in grade school. And that was the school. But we took three years there.

DOROTHEA: So they did have a high school there?

IRENE: Well, they shouldn't ---

DOROTHEA: More or less, I mean, you know.

IRENE: Uh huh. We took three years there, and then we finished up in Burns, and Forrest finished up in Prairie City, wasn't it? With --- he had some relation living up there. I --- Pleas Hankins or something.

CLARENCE: I believe that he went up there with Pleas Hankins, you know.

IRENE: I think.

CLARENCE: Yeah.

IRENE: And finished up. And then Iris took all of her --- Yeah, I forgot about Iris, there was, she was in grade school yet when I was there. She took all of her high school, I think, up at Prairie City.

DOROTHEA: In Prairie, there wasn't a school at John Day at that time?

IRENE: Yes, but they had relatives living at Prairie City.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I see.

CLARENCE: Pleas Hankins' wife was ---

IRENE: Mrs. ---

CLARENCE: --- Hopper's ---

IRENE: Sister. Something like that. It was a relation to Mrs. Hopper anyway.

CLARENCE: And Pleas Hankins was --- After he left Silvies Valley, why he was a city cop or city marshal at Prairie City for years, and years, and years.

DOROTHEA: Now at one time Ralph was a timber faller. What --- When did we get into this?

CLARENCE: Oh, when did we start?

IRENE: We start?

CLARENCE: When did Ralph and I start falling?

IRENE: Uh --- Nona was just a baby, so it's 40 years ago.

CLARENCE: Yeah, about 40.

DOROTHEA: About 40 years ago?

IRENE: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Ralph and I --- I don't think Ralph cut any logs before he and I cut the logs for the old Christenson Mill down here, off from Mahogany Butte. ...

BARBARA: I didn't understand yesterday, what Ralph Hankins did after he retired from the store in '49. Did he do anything else after that?

CLARENCE: In '49?

BARBARA: I think that's what he said, when he retired from the store.

DOROTHEA: I ---

CLARENCE: When he left the store?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I don't think he left the store until Stocky (Alvin Stockwell) and Lois (Lois Stockwell) bought it.

CLARENCE: He didn't.

DOROTHEA: I think he must have gotten his dates mixed up a little bit, because ---

CLARENCE: I think so, because ---

BARBARA: I thought that was a long time to be retired.

DOROTHEA: Because he didn't ---

CLARENCE: Because he ---

IRENE: Well he came to Hines and lived.

DOROTHEA: Right after that, uh huh.

CLARENCE: Forty years ---

IRENE: Uh huh. Forty years ago he was living in Hines right next to us. And then they started the store after that; they built the new store after that.

DOROTHEA: Well that would be about '49 then.

IRENE: Uh huh. And then, I don't know when he sold it, but when he sold it to Stockwell, he moved to John Day, or Canyon, one.

CLARENCE: Yeah, he was in Canyon.

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well they must have sold the store in the early '60's, because I know Lois and Stocky would come to see us. And when they first started to come and seeing us, well I already had Kelly, (Purdy-Hefner) and she was born in '63. And they said something about they have a little child named Kelly too. And when he found out it was a girl, well he said, "Well call me James." So anyway, it must have been in the middle '60's when he sold out of that.

CLARENCE: Well that's what I would say.

DOROTHEA: I would say probably '65 or something, because they were still living in Seneca when they first started ---

CLARENCE: See he didn't sell out until after his dad died.

IRENE: Well the first time, probably he was talking about the first time that they sold out and he moved to ---

DOROTHEA: Now see he could have, because I didn't know about that. IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I just thought they'd always lived up there.

CLARENCE: That's when he sold the ranch up there.

IRENE: Uh huh, and moved to Hines.

CLARENCE: And moved to Hines, and that was 40 years, or 42 years ago, or something like that.

IRENE: No, it was just before Wanda (Gardner-Alden) was born. Wanda was born there when they were living there.

DOROTHEA: And Wanda was born?

CLARENCE: Yeah, it must have been, because Ralph and I --- Nonie was just a baby when they moved there.

IRENE: Yes, and Wanda was born at the time that they were living there, when Jack took his life.

CLARENCE: He took his life there.

DOROTHEA: That --- that was something that I couldn't remember how, or what happened to Jack, not that it's anything important.

IRENE: Maybe you don't want it on that.

... (Tape wiped out to keep from hurting families.)

DOROTHEA: Okay, now let's go on and just talk vaguely about Silvie's Valley and see if there's --- I know some of the things that happened up there, they used to have lots of dances and picnics, and parties, and --- Was that with all of the people just getting together, or what brought the people together?

IRENE: For a while Del Hankins' brother, John Hankins, was there with Del Hankins and family, and he was quite a comedian. And they had what we called the Literaries, and every two weeks, wasn't it in the wintertime, we would meet over where the Grange Hall, the old Grange Hall was, and have programs, and dances and really had a big crowd from all over the valley. But that was only about two years or three, I think.

CLARENCE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Had the Purdy's moved up there by then?

IRENE: I don't believe so, I don't believe they had.

DOROTHEA: Because they moved up in '35. And I know Mom said they used to have

lots of --- play lots of cards, and get together and have lots of meals together, and ---

CLARENCE: Well they used to have dances up there after Purdy's moved up there.

IRENE: Yes, dances, but they didn't have this literary. Uh huh. This literary is something that really John Hankins started, because he was --- as I say a comedian, more or less.

CLARENCE: See Del Hankins played the violin. Pleas Hankins played the violin. George Hankins played the violin.

IRENE: Ralph played the accordion.

CLARENCE: Yeah, Ralph played the accordion.

DOROTHEA: So they were all pretty much musically talented.

IRENE: Uh huh, very much so.

DOROTHEA: That's how the Hoppers and all of them came about playing the music instruments too.

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I wish they had kept that kind of stuff up, because --- I remember when we first had our charivari up there, I think that was probably one of the last charivaries that was held up at that old Grange Hall, or schoolhouse, or whatever that place was. And I don't think there was much doing up there after that. It was kind of quiet, and nobody ever got together.

CLARENCE: There wasn't many people there anymore.

DOROTHEA: Well, not really, huh uh. No, the Jap Camp, and Purdy's, and Scheckels, and Shetkeys, and that was about the valley right there.

IRENE: Uh huh. And Gladys and Darrell, the Hoppers.

DOROTHEA: Gladys and Darrell, uh huh. That was just about all that was left in the Valley. Jap and Ruby (Temple) used to come up once in a while in the summertime and spend the summer. But they never ever went anywhere, you know, and they were ---

IRENE: Where did you live when you were up there?

DOROTHEA: Where did we live?

IRENE: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Where Donna lives now.

DOROTHEA: Where Donna (Purdy-Gilliland-Jones) lives. Our house burned down up there.

IRENE: Oh, oh that's right. Uh huh. Yeah, I remember that now.

BARBARA: Why did most of the people leave the Valley?

IRENE: Well they sold out to a big --- to big companies, didn't they?

CLARENCE: Yeah, Craddocks bought my folks out, my dad out. And he bought, they bought most all of the people out of the upper end of Silvies Valley, Craddocks did, back then. The Pleas Hankins, and George Hankins place, and the McVeys. Well no, they didn't buy the McVeys place, Southworths bought it. And they bought the Johnson place.

DOROTHEA: The South who?

CLARENCE: Huh?

DOROTHEA: Southworth?

IRENE: South ---

CLARENCE: Southworth bought the McVey place.

IRENE: But they lived up at a ---

CLARENCE: Bear Valley.

IRENE: Bear Valley.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, there on the other side of Seneca.

IRENE: Uh huh. Then Chester sold out the whole layout to --- who, Chester Craddock?

CLARENCE: Chester sold the whole layout to a California guy, I think.

DOROTHEA: Fritz Nosler?

CLARENCE: Huh?

DOROTHEA: Did Fritz Nosler own some of that up there?

IRENE: Fritz Nosler? I don't ---

DOROTHEA: He didn't own any of that?

IRENE: I don't remember the name. He could have.

DOROTHEA: It seemed like he had that before Pon came in.

CLARENCE: Rogers and Acres bought Chet's old ---

DOROTHEA: Rogers and Acres.

IRENE: Well did Pon buy it from Rogers and Acres?

CLARENCE: No, Fine and Springer bought it.

DOROTHEA: Fine --- right.

CLARENCE: And then after Fine and Springer, was a outfit from Oregon City, the Oregon City Paper Mill. The Oregon City Woolen Mill, one of the other.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Clinton could remember, but see I'm not --- I'm from Ryegrass area.

CLARENCE: Yes, you are.

DOROTHEA: You know, when I --- I used to go to church, and as far as I ever got up was just above Drinkwater's, and I got scared out. So I didn't drive any further. (Laughter) I don't know ---

CLARENCE: Fine and Springer had it, and then that outfit from ---

DOROTHEA: That was Joe Fine wasn't it?

CLARENCE: Oregon City anyway.

IRENE: Yeah, Joe Fine I think.

CLARENCE: I can't remember what they called that. And they was the ones that built the house, the new house up at the old Jack Craddock place, and then moved it down. It's setting on the hill there by the ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, at the Bridge Creek place.

CLARENCE: At Bridge Creek. And then Pon bought it.

DOROTHEA: Harry Pon. And then Pon sold to the --- what do they call that grazing co-op?

IRENE: Uh huh.

CLARENCE: No, Pon didn't sell to the grazing association.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he didn't sell to the grazing co-op?

CLARENCE: No, some outfit from Oklahoma? Some eastern outfit bought it, and then they sold it to the grazing company. I don't remember.

IRENE: Now Dad sold to ---

CLARENCE: Pon, no not Pon, Coarse. John Coarse.

IRENE: Huh uh. Coarse.

DOROTHEA: John Coarse, right. Now, he was C O A R S E ?

IRENE: I'm not sure.

DOROTHEA: I think that's the way it was.

IRENE: Could be, I'm not sure.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and he was from Mt. Vernon.

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: They ran that for a while, right.

IRENE: Then I don't know, did he sell to the grazing outfit, or did he sell to Pon?

CLARENCE: No, he sold to this --- No, Pon bought it. Yeah, that's right. Pon bought his place.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think that's right. I think Pon did buy that.

CLARENCE: 'Cause I remember one time your dad was real upset because he thought he was going to have to take all that back, and that place on the John Day River, he had a

mortgage on.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah.

CLARENCE: He had me a little upset. We went down to look at that place on the John Day River, and all I could see was pebbles and cheat grass. And that's the most beautiful ranch down there now.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it is. Boy, green, pretty.

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. I don't know who has that now.

CLARENCE: I don't either.

DOROTHEA: I know --- when the Coarse plane wrecked, and it killed that Langenfeld girl, (Amendment: Coarse family was killed in same accident.) it kind of went to pieces, and then they sold it out to somebody. And then it went back, got back into order. But it is a gorgeous place. Now see, you held your head for nothing. It could have been so pretty.

IRENE: (Laughter) Right.

DOROTHEA: Well I think we've pretty well got quite a few of this in here that will help me a little bit. I'm still going to have to find out how Silvie's got its name. I can't find that out.

IRENE: Well at one time I knew that, I know, but I can't recall it.

CLARENCE: Ralph Hankins didn't know that?

DOROTHEA: He said that he thought it was named by a guy by the name of John Silvie.

BARBARA: He was a trapper.

DOROTHEA: He was a trapper.

IRENE: I believe that's right.

DOROTHEA: And I heard, or read in a book, that it was the Silvie's River, was named after this Antoine, or Antoine Sylvaile. So whether those are two --- and he was a

trapper. And whether they're two different people, or what it is ---

CLARENCE: I don't know.

DOROTHEA: But he though it was a guy by the name of John Silvie. And he was a trapper, and he had come in there and they named the place after him, and settled in there.

IRENE: And if I think of that one man's place that was going to plant peaches, that one man, I'll call you. After I think a while, it quite often comes to me.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I might even be able to get Clinton --- I hate to go up and talk to Mervin (Purdy). I'm going to go up and converse with him a little bit, and see what I can get. He'll remember a lot of it, you know, and places and things. But my main thing is, I have to write this little tiny article, and I've got to know where, how it got its name, and I can't find that out. But ---

IRENE: I was trying to think where in the world you could get that. I can't think that where, that we studied it, or that we knew at one time.

DOROTHEA: Well, it was just probably common knowledge to the people up there.

CLARENCE: You could probably find that out at the courthouse at Canyon City.

DOROTHEA: Well, that's what I thought about next Wednesday; I thought I'd go up there. Well, is there anything else, Barbara, that you think might be important for us, so that we can kind of wrap this up?

BARBARA: Well, you might want to ask a little bit about their family, their children, and ---

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA: When you were married, and what you did after you were married, and your children.

CLARENCE: That's been a long time ago.

IRENE: In a few days it'll be 45 years. We were married in 1943, September 13th.

DOROTHEA: September, huh?

IRENE: Uh huh, the 13th in '43. We were married at the home of Dr. and Louise Smith. And it was a double wedding with my sister and I.

BARBARA: Oh, that's interesting.

IRENE: Uh huh. Joel Sword, she married Joel Sword.

DOROTHEA: Now Dr. and Louise Smith, is that B. F.?

CLARENCE: Bob Smith's ---

IRENE: Bob Smith, uh huh, B. F. Smith.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

IRENE: That's Bob Smith's folks.

DOROTHEA: And you have two children?

IRENE: Uh huh. We have Nona Popham, P O P H A M. And Wanda Alden. Four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. That's him up there (picture).

BARBARA: That's Nona's isn't it?

IRENE: Yes, uh huh.

BARBARA: I know Nona.

IRENE: Oh, you do? Well I should have known you a long time ago, but --- I've seen you around, and I really didn't know your name.

BARBARA: I know Nona from over at the school. I do a lot of things over at the school.

IRENE: Probably, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And that's Kelly's baby. What does she have?

IRENE: She has a baby boy, Matthew.

DOROTHEA: Boy, Matthew.

IRENE: Matthew Everhart.

DOROTHEA: Are they still in the service?

IRENE: Uh huh. They're in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

DOROTHEA: And I guess ---

IRENE: Do you want Freda's family, or is that necessary?

DOROTHEA: Freda has ---

IRENE: Three children.

DOROTHEA: Three children.

IRENE: Two girls and a boy. That's Darlene Austin, John Sword, and Francis Davis.

DOROTHEA: Do you spell Francis, C I S ?

IRENE: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: C I S.

BARBARA: One is male, and one is female.

DOROTHEA: I know, but I never can tell the difference.

IRENE: Isn't that terrible.

BARBARA: I always have to look it up in the dictionary to make sure.

IRENE: Well, I'm quite sure that's right. Now I have a cousin, a man, named Francis.

And then of course this Francis. So I have to try to keep them ---

CLARENCE: Separated.

IRENE: Of course she doesn't want to be called Frances, she wants to be called Fran.

DOROTHEA: Fran, right. And she's got two kids.

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Do they have one of Rich's? Do they ever get that girl of Rich's?

IRENE: Not but just a short time in the summer.

DOROTHEA: So more or less she just got two. Darlene has got ---

IRENE: Three.

DOROTHEA: Three?

IRENE: A boy and two girls.

DOROTHEA: And John's got ---

IRENE: Two, a boy and a girl.

DOROTHEA: Okay, so she's got --- And they don't have any ---

IRENE: Great-grandchildren, not yet, no.

BARBARA: When did you come down from the Silvies Valley to Burns then, after you were married?

IRENE: After we were married we worked for Dr. Smith up on Emigrant at his ranch for a year. Then we worked for Harley Hotchkiss for almost two years.

DOROTHEA: And where did he have his place then? Was it ---

IRENE: It's where Otley has now. Otley bought it from him.

DOROTHEA: Where Dorman ---

IRENE: Uh huh. Bought, that was his place. And we lived down on Hanley Lane --- what was the name of that place? Harley bought it.

CLARENCE: The other side of the Experiment station.

DOROTHEA: Oh, there where Sam Gunderson lived for a while?

CLARENCE: Yeah.

IRENE: Uh huh. And then we went on our own, and we lived in Silvies for a while. We lived at the Camblin house. Now there's some people you didn't get, was Jett Blackburn. Jett and Easter Blackburn, they lived in the Camblin house.

CLARENCE: They built that.

IRENE: They built the house there at the Camblin place, and we lived there a while.

DOROTHEA: That's that C A M B L I N ?

IRENE: C A M B L I N, I think it is. Camblin, now I may be spelling that wrong.

DOROTHEA: And who did you work for then, yourselves?

IRENE: Uh huh. He worked in, we worked in the woods, getting wood and posts and poles. And we moved to Hines and lived there until '59, and moved here in '59.

DOROTHEA: And you bought this from Hazel Williams. Who had this place before?

IRENE: No, Dad had it from Hazel Williams.

DOROTHEA: Oh, your dad did.

IRENE: Uh huh. He foreclosed and got it from Hazel Williams, and then he gave it to us.

DOROTHEA: And did you, did they have a dairy, Williams have a dairy, or did you have the dairy?

CLARENCE: That was their dairy barn out there.

DOROTHEA: That was their dairy?

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Do you still do milking?

IRENE: Not now, but we did for about 20 years. Seventeen, wasn't it, 17 years?

CLARENCE: Seventeen years.

BARBARA: You ran a dairy here at that time, delivered milk and---

CLARENCE: That was 17 years in the dairy barn. But I guess we milked a couple years by hand too, didn't we?

IRENE: Uh huh. Before we --- yes, we had a raw milk dairy, and people came here and got it.

BARBARA: You didn't deliver it to stores and around town?

IRENE: Well we did a little bit, but mostly people came here and picked it up. It was a raw milk dairy. Then we had that for 17 years, he said.

BARBARA: That kept you at home all of the time, didn't it?

IRENE: Right. Night and day, every night and day you had to be here.

CLARENCE: We sold out --- sold the cows once in 17 years, when she was operated on

for cancer. Then we, well I sold what I couldn't turn dry. I think I turned four or five dry.

IRENE: Five dry. And then we had to start up again.

CLARENCE: And then we --- when she got out and so she could jug milk again, and wash milk dishes, why we started milking those cows. And then we got back up to about eight or nine cows.

DOROTHEA: That was mostly --- you had just people come out here and get it, you never delivered after that?

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I don't know what those people was going to do without your milk cows, because I know a lot of people that got milk from you, so ---

CLARENCE: I still have people growl at me about it.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I bet. Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you have a special name for your dairy then?

IRENE: No, just Gardner's Dairy.

BARBARA: Gardner's Dairy.

IRENE: Well that was the name all right. We had to stamp every-thing, but it was Gardner's Dairy. We were Grade "B"; we weren't Grade "A", because we didn't have a tank that you cooled it in. We jugged it, and then put it in a cooler. And that was Grade "B" instead ---

DOROTHEA: Daddy --- Daddy run his over a cooler, and ---

IRENE: He had his in a tank? Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

CLARENCE: There's one out there in the top of the barn.

DOROTHEA: There is one?

CLARENCE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Boy, I'll tell you, he used to run his cold water and run it through this processor that you run through, and then barrel this or can it all up. Because we didn't put ours in individual jugs, we just canned ours and took it into the creamery, and then they did what they wanted with it. But we used to set that on there, and we'd have to keep that water cold, because you only made one trip to town, so---

IRENE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, Daddy milked about 17 cows too, at one time. I shouldn't say Daddy, I should say my Mom! (Laughter) Because she's the one that did part of it, and --
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IRENE: You kids did too, didn't you?

DOROTHEA: And then when she got a little --- she got chickens, well then us kids got the milking, so --- But Daddy ---

IRENE: Well anyway, it strengthened our arms didn't it, and hands?

DOROTHEA: Yeah. That's where Clinton and I argue today, is he doesn't know how to milk a cow. He milks it upside down, you know, and it squeezes it up instead of out.

IRENE: I've heard so many that milk this way instead of this way. (Hand motions.)

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and he can still get some, but he'll dry a cow up real quick.

IRENE: I'll bet. Uh huh.

CLARENCE: Who's this?

DOROTHEA: Clint.

CLARENCE: Oh.

IRENE: Does he do it on purpose? (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: No, that's just how he knows how. That's how he learned how to milk, I guess. Maybe he never really, you know ---

IRENE: Probably never did really milk.

DOROTHEA: Probably never did too much milking. (Laughter) Well, I thank you guys. I think you have given us quite a lot of information, and I think this will help me a lot. If I can just find out where the place got its name now, well I'll be about set. But it sounds to me like that the Valley was quite prosperous for a while, then due to wars and selling out, and things like this, well that's what happened to all the people. They moved into town, and away, and this is more or less is what's happened.

IRENE: Uh huh. Isn't that awful. About twenty people --- twenty families made a living up there, all those little gulches, and now there's nobody there.

DOROTHEA: Nope.

BARBARA: You said that there was just maybe one California Corporation that kind of has the Valley now. Is that right?

IRENE: Well it isn't the California now; it's a co-op, I think.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it belongs to Travelers Insurance, I think, now is who it belongs to.

IRENE: Oh, does it?

DOROTHEA: I talked to ---

CLARENCE: They took it back or ---

DOROTHEA: That's what Carol was saying the other day, yeah, it's Travelers Insurance.

CLARENCE: I didn't know whether they took it back or not.

DOROTHEA: I don't know --- Garth Johnson works up there, and Steve (Miller) has gone back to work up there a little bit. And that's, you know, about all I know about it. But I think it belongs to the Travelers Insurance now.

BARBARA: Will the state ... government lands.

DOROTHEA: I imagine, yeah, that's where it goes. We sure appreciate all the time that you have spent with us.

IRENE: Will I think it was kind of fun.

DOROTHEA: And we're glad to get this much information from you.

And if there is anything else, would you like to add anything else that has kind of come to mind? Or some of your memories that you would like to share with us, or anything like that?

BARBARA: In growing up, what did you kids do for fun? I mean, I know you didn't always have a lot of spare time with your chores and things, but can you remember some little things?

CLARENCE: I hadn't better tell you what I did.

BARBARA: Oh.

CLARENCE: My mom used to make me work in the garden, and I'd sneak off and go back up on the big high hills and roll rocks the rest of the day. (Laughter) That was fun.

IRENE: Well our main entertainment, besides of course we liked to ride horses, and we didn't mind doing the chores. But we did have a piano like that, and we didn't take lessons. But we learned by ear our own way of playing, and that was our main, in the entertainment, when we were left alone.

BARBARA: After dinner, maybe, would you get around the piano and do some playing?

IRENE: Quite often. Mother played the piano, she had taken lessons. Now that is real strange that she had taken lessons, and was able to play by music. And Dad played the harp. And of course he really liked music, Dad did. And they played, would play a lot. And of course we had studying to do in the wintertime. Always we brought books home.

DOROTHEA: Well John was quite a dancer.

IRENE: Yes, he danced till almost to the day he died.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

IRENE: And was real good at it. And that was our main entertainment at home, was that piano.

BARBARA: You said your dad played what?

IRENE: The harmonica.

BARBARA: Harmonica.

IRENE: Yes, and he and Mother would play. And then of course we picked it up by ear. That's the only way we played, because neither one of us had music lessons. And mother never took time to give us music lessons.

BARBARA: Always more important things to do.

IRENE: Uh huh. And she worked outside almost as a man all the time.

DOROTHEA: She was a hard worker. She spent most of her life out-side.

IRENE: That's right. She worked herself to death, really.

BARBARA: That happens with a lot of pioneer women, didn't it?

IRENE: Uh huh. Yes, that's right. But she only lived to 67 too, till she was 67 years old.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, you can more or less say she worked herself to death, because she worked hard.

IRENE: That's what they say that she did.

DOROTHEA: Well Barbara, is there any other questions that you would like to ask?

BARBARA: Not that I can think of right now. It's been very interesting for me.

DOROTHEA: So we'll close off now, and we thank you for all your time and your information, and we'll see what we can do with this. Thank you a lot.

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