

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #240 - Sides A/B/C

Subject: Trip to Round Barn with Marcus Haines

Place: Harney County

Date: October 12, 1988

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: No

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and we're on our way to the Round Barn with Barbara Lofgren and Marcus Haines. The date is October 12, 1988. You're on.

MARCUS HAINES: Okay. Well, this hill out here we're seeing right directly in front of us is Wright's Point. And it's just a long projection which is --- the scientists say that it --- geologists, that the country washed away from this rock and stuff that's up here, and formed this hill here. You can --- it's only about a quarter of a mile across the top of it. You can start right down again. And it's about seven miles long. And back in 19 --- 1865, Captain Williams came in here and set up a camp just back of us here on the right-hand side of what --- this is called Hanley Lane. And then later went down to the end of the point here, near where the Island Ranch is now, and put in Fort [Camp] Wright, in the fall of '65. And the following spring the camp burned up, and that was the end of it.

But --- it was quite a job to get over the hill here back in those days. So, we had to go down to the end of the point and come back and get in here. And then back in those days too, before it was oiled, or any surface put on the road, if it stormed a little bit, why the road that --- Hanley Lane here just rolled up and went with you. And you know what happens when you get all your wheels filled with adobe, you don't go very far. So, we would have to find another route, coming into Burns. And we could always make it to the other side of Wright's Point here, but then --- and we couldn't get through Hanley Lane, we would turn west and go back up to the base of the hill there, and come down what they call Savage Grade. And we would come in through Burns where Hines is now.

But --- after this improved road was made here in --- well in the '30's some time. But they oiled this road down here in the late '30's. And then they didn't do much of a job on it, and it all fell

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apart, so they ripped it up and it set there for a while. And then they went ahead and come through, and did the job that they have now. And the road is about gone. They're going to have to do it over again. I'm sure you noticed the edge of the road all chewed up there. And so that's going to be the next ---

Now we're right on top of Wright's Point. You see we just come over here, and down we go right over here. And it really isn't a quarter of a mile, I guess.

DOROTHEA: How did it get the name of Wright's Point?

MARCUS: Named after a captain, after an army officer. Most all of these names are for army officers who came in here early. And we can't --- an army, a fellow that was in charge of operations around here was named Wright. And so, he had the honor of having the fort named after him down here.

Now we're coming down into Sunset Valley. And we're looking out on Malheur Lake, down here. And this water, which you see out here in puddles, is in the Red S country here that belongs to Henry Vogler now. But as --- part of the old Henry Miller/Lux operation here, called the PLS Company.

And in the early days here, they --- the county was, the state was selling swamp land for a dollar and a quarter an acre. And a fellow by the name of Hen Owens put a boat in a wagon and drove around all over this area down here, and then went down to the state legislature and told him that he had been all over this area here in a boat. He didn't tell where he had it. And he bought the property for a dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. And he sold it to a fellow by the name of John Devine.

Well, John Devine went broke in the '80's, and Henry Miller bought him out. And when they got to looking deeds over and that, why they found out that Hen Owens had really jobbed somebody. So, Henry Miller then was --- he had to buy the thing over. And in the meantime, the settlers here, around there, they were wanting in too, and so they had quite a time in here.

I had an Uncle Fred Haines who came down here and decided he'd see if he could get some of this unsurveyed land, as they called it in those days. But he was a little chicken hearted when it come to fighting and all that, so he left here and went up to Harney and started a store up there in 1889. But he came from this country and went up.

Now this is called Dog Mountain out here. And I'll have to tell you this story. We were --- they were buckarooing out on the east end of the lake here, oh fifty years ago or better, and at that

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time, there were no fences around here. And the cattle in the fall of the year would all congregate around --- around on the lake there, where they had a little green feed and that, so we'd have to go up there and each fellow would work out his cattle. We rodeo them, and work them out. And we were waiting for somebody to come with some cattle, and there was a fellow by the name of Baker. He was an old timer here, and somebody said, "Tom", he said, "when did you come to Harney County?" He said, "Well, when I first came to Harney County," he said, "Dog Mountain out here was just a pup." (Laughter) He was quite an old guy. Well, this is Dog Mountain out here.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Okay, in the, in the early days when they were homesteading, about how many homesteads or ranches did they have out here in Sunset Valley?

MARCUS: Well, I couldn't tell you that. I'll tell you now while we're out here --- now this is the lake has been all out through here, see where these weeds are, and this brush is killed and all. Now the water is receded this much here, see it's ---

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: See clear back out in here. When I was a kid, we used to come to Burns with a wagon, with a team, buggy --- wagon, whatever. And we would come right up this, we went through here, the road was over here about a mile. But we wouldn't be out of sight of a house from the time we left the Narrows, until we got to Wright's Point. And right at the foot of Wright's Point there was a hotel and a livery stable. And if you got started --- along in the wintertime because the days were short and that, why you would --- we would come in here and stay all night at these people's --- their names were Thomanson's. And we'd stay all night with Thomanson's, and get up early the next morning. And we had that grade to pull, you see. And then we'd go on into Burns. And then maybe we'd leave Burns in the afternoon, and come back out and stay all night with these folks, and went home the next day.

But at that time, there wasn't, as I say you wouldn't be out of the sight of a house from here to the Narrows. And this is practically all deeded land, all through here. It was just, fencing it off here, this fence right here has been put in just recently. And there is a cemetery right here.

At one time this was the headquarters of the Oregon State Experimental Station. And a fellow by the name of Henney ran the station here. I can remember it was fenced with chicken wire, and all was under cultivation and that. And they called it --- they had a post office in the house, and it was called Loma. And he--- and his wife died here, and he buried her right here, and started this cemetery that we just passed. And that was the end of the experimental station out here.

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And that's when it was moved up near the airport where it's at now. And the Koenemann's who homesteaded right around the hill here in 1907 has families buried in there, members of the family. And Goldie Hughet (Stahl) was raised right over here along the edge of the hill. But she has relatives buried there.

DOROTHEA: We might want to get a picture of that if we've got time on the way back.

MARCUS: Okay. And ---

DOROTHEA: Is there stones and everything yet?

MARCUS: Yes. Yeah, they maintain it here.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

MARCUS: Now this road here goes into the Weaver Springs country.

DOROTHEA: The Weaver.

MARCUS: What?

DOROTHEA: Weaver Springs?

MARCUS: Weaver Springs, yes. And a fellow by the name of Leathers, the Leather Oil Company, you know of them I'm sure, or heard of them I mean. They got the gas station on the way from Burns to Hines. And they own a lot of property in here. And then the Newell House that you hear about, they call it the haunted house. Maybe you've been to it when you were a girl.

DOROTHEA: No, that's another place I've never been.

MARCUS: (Laughter) Well, I'll just take a day off and just show you Harney County.

DOROTHEA: I guess. One of these days. (Laughter)

MARCUS: It's four miles right in there to the Newell House, that is called the castle, and it was called the haunted house. It was called this, and called that. And it's just been vandalized, so you can't believe. The house was built just shortly after the turn of the century by a fellow by the name of Newell. He was the second school superintendent of Harney County. And he also was a newspaperman. And he'd been in the Civil War, and then he'd been in some Indian Wars too. And he had lost one arm. He was a one-arm man. And he raised eight kids, and most of them were boys. They had the house up alongside of the hill there, built of stone, and was fashioned after a castle in Germany. It covered five acres. Took three years to build the house. And then in 1918, when we had the war going, they used lots of horses in those days, why the army came in here and bought all these horses for remount horses. And he got good ones, lots of them, just running wild on the range here. And so, he sold those horses and picked the family up and moved over to Idaho.

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And the house has been, you might say, vacant ever since then. And this one has been vandalized, and you can't believe --- I was out there the other day, and somebody had been out there with a couple cans of spray paint and they'd sprayed the walls and the rocks and you can imagine what's put on it.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: It's a terrible mess out there. The house now belongs to a fellow by the name of Kochergen who lives in California. And he won't --- he doesn't want to have any restoration work done, or anything about it.

Now we're hitting Malheur Lake. Now this is the, this is the water that is flooding out from the Malheur Lake. And this is the road that had to be raised here. This water was over this road by about four or five feet here. And even an oil road --- and they just kept building it up here, and built it up twice. They spent three million dollars on this, on this road here.

DOROTHEA: Million or billion?

MARCUS: Huh?

DOROTHEA: Million or billion? (Laughter) I know they spent a lot of time on it.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well, we most always talking billions, but I think this was millions here. (Laughter)

BARBARA: It's bad, but not that bad.

MARCUS: It's going to look kind of strange here when the Lake dries up.

DOROTHEA: Yeah it is.

MARCUS: And then right off here to our right is the Sand Reef. You can see a ridge down through there.

DOROTHEA: Where the cattle are?

MARCUS: No way, way over.

DOROTHEA: Way over.

MARCUS: Harney Lake is clear back in that country, and the Double O country is there at the far end of --- the Double O Lake. There is thirty-two thousand acres in the, in Malheur Lake --- or Harney Lake.

BARBARA: Now, Mud Lake goes on this side of the Lake?

MARCUS: Now, Mud Lake is in between them.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

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MARCUS: Yes. Well, the Sand Reef there that was blown in over the years, and washed out and all, is closed up again. I was down there the other day and --- and there is going to be an article in the paper about it here. Harney Lake is twelve feet lower than Malheur, so it drains in there. There is no outlet from Harney Lake. So, it's shut off here. And another strange thing is happening, just heard about it yesterday. The South Fork of the Malheur River, and it goes right by the Malheur Cave --- have you been --- have either one of you been out here at the cave?

DOROTHEA: No, I haven't been there either.

MARCUS: Well, --- there are three forks of the Malheur River. One of them is the South Fork, Middle Fork, and the North Fork. The South Fork comes out of this country back in here and runs down through Venator Siding. Have you been to Venator Siding? Goes by Riverside.

DOROTHEA: No. I don't know if Barbara has, but I haven't.

MARCUS: (Laughter) You were born and raised here! You have got no excuses. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: I've never been anywhere.

BARBARA: That's why we have to do these projects so we can educate her. Educate the natives.

MARCUS: Well, that's right. You're an import here.

BARBARA: Right.

MARCUS: So, you've got a little excuse.

BARBARA: I'm just a transient, they call us.

MARCUS: Well ---

DOROTHEA: I'm an import too. I was four years old so I really have no excuse.

MARCUS: So anyway, this is --- coming to the Narrows now. And the reason it was called The Narrows is the --- was the lake narrows down right here; normally the water isn't out here. It just goes through here, and called the Narrows. It goes into Mud Lake down here. Now you can see the Sand Reefs down through there pretty well. Well, it's broken way over there by that point of rocks up there. And you see --- it will be in the paper next week, not this week, but next week. And you'll know where they're talking about there. So, we'll stop here and I'll tell you a little about the Narrows. And---

DOROTHEA: When we stop maybe we want to kind of photograph just a little bit of it, if we're going to stop. And get a little bit of it on camera, and get started.

MARCUS: Yes, you bet. We've got all day here, and a lunch.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, right.

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MARCUS: (Laughter) Lots of gasoline.

BARBARA: And the sun is shining.

DOROTHEA: The sun is shining.

MARCUS: The suns a shining. Now here, this is the --- they had to raise this bridge three times here. And this old tree was planted about 1900. And we thought it was going to fall over here anytime, but it's still hanging on.

BARBARA: Persistent one.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Deep roots.

MARCUS: There is somebody else up here ahead of us with the same thing in mind I think.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, they're looking, or photographing, or something.

BARBARA: I think they're from out of state. They're checking out the --- British Columbia. Oh.

DOROTHEA: They must be looking at the birds over there.

MARCUS: Well, we'll get off the road, we'll fool them.

DOROTHEA: Pat will wonder whose company.

MARCUS: Do you know the Churches? Pat Church and ---

DOROTHEA: Well --- in a way.

MARCUS: Say we want to get out here now? So, you better take this loose. (Microphone)

DOROTHEA: We're going to have to unhook. I'll tell you what, yeah. And then we'll hook you back up when you start talking again.

MARCUS: Get out here. I'll take my coat off. It's getting warm.

DOROTHEA: Yeah it is, even for me. Okay Barbara, I should have just unhooked you, so I don't have you all twisted up. Me --- Let you hang onto it. (Microphone)

MARCUS: Are we on now?

DOROTHEA: Yep.

MARCUS: Yeah, there it goes. Well this, as I was telling you a while ago, this is called the Narrows. And in 1889, a fellow by the name of Hembree started a little store, he built a few buildings right over here about where that tree is, or a little bit above. And then in 1892, my other uncle Charlie Haines came down here and put in a store. And this was his residence, this house right here. It was later turned into a schoolhouse. And this building that is falling down here is his warehouse. There is a basement down underneath there. And he had a, quite a store out on the,

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building out on the front part of it. I'll show you some pictures of it here. And at one time, there was several families lived here in Burns --- in Narrows. This little building that is standing back up here, they all called it the jail. Well, it was never a jail. Charlie built the little building to put kerosene and paint and stuff like that in to get it away from his store where he had his groceries and all that. And that is what it was used for. Well, Charlie died in 1916, and left an estate here of \$360,000, and he made it right here at this store. And Alice Johnston, the storekeeper, you know her, tells about her dad coming from the South End here. I heard this story just the other day. Come into Burns to get a load of lumber and what not --- and all to do some building, and whatever they needed down there in the South End. And he stopped at the Narrows, and this is as far as he got. Charlie Haines had everything right here that he needed. You wouldn't think you'd find it here. So, Mr. Turner just loaded up his wagons and started home. Saved him a trip on into Burns.

And in those days too, shortly after, Charlie was instrumental in getting a telephone line through here. But they say that Charlie would --- or they would call him from Burns and say well you --- have you got this, or you got that, we don't have it. Yeah, I've got it. And he would have things that you couldn't get in Burns. And it doesn't look much like it there now, does it?

BARBARA: No. And you say this tree out here was planted around 1900?

MARCUS: Yes. Or maybe a little before.

BARBARA: Okay.

MARCUS: And it ---

BARBARA: And it still hasn't toppled over in the water.

MARCUS: No. We thought the ice would take it out; it's taken out these power poles through here. But that tree was too tough. You see this power line went right across here, and you can see some of the posts sticking up out here where they cut them off. And some of them cut off, and broke off. And then Bonneville came in and put this line in here. But at one time here when this system went out, why the people on this side of Malheur Lake got their power from Nevada. They hooked up on the other end. This goes clear into Nevada. These people on this side, they were on -- they come from Bonneville of all things, you know.

BARBARA: Huh.

MARCUS: But in those days the Narrows was a hey day --- they had a racetrack, a half mile race track right back out here in this country here. Cut out of the sagebrush for horse racing. And they had a baseball diamond right --- just the other side of the car around there. We used to sit around

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these rocks here, for the grandstand. (Laughter) Yeah. Now what set the Narrows up here prior to the Sand Reef was in for many years, and you can, you can see here pretty well that the travel going north and south through the country here would come down from Burns, come down and get on the Sand Reef, and go right on through. Then it was kicked out in '81, and opened up. And it has never closed up since, until now. And so that shut the traffic off through here, and people going this way either had to go clear around by Crane now, around that way, or clear over here to the Double O, at the base of those hills over there.

DOROTHEA: Now when they had ---

MARCUS: Now I've lost, I've lost something here.

DOROTHEA: Uh oh. You lost your speaker. The Bannock War, they went through that Sand Reef, right?

MARCUS: Well, the Pete French's outfit did. Yes.

DOROTHEA: Pete French's.

MARCUS: Yeah, now we'll try it again here.

DOROTHEA: Hang onto this. (Microphone)

MARCUS: What is this, an extension?

DOROTHEA: Well yeah, that's an extension.

MARCUS: All in the switch and all. Oh, I see. Yes.

BARBARA: I was looking the other way --- about these rocks, when they had horse races, do you want to tell that again on tape ---

DOROTHEA: It's over this way Barbara.

BARBARA: Oh.

MARCUS: It's ah --- this bunch of rocks right here Barbara was the grandstand for the ball field. It set right out south there. We sat around those rocks and watched them play ball. And then out in this area here, just over the top of the car, and between here and that hill was a half mile race track cut out of the brush out in there. They used to run lots of horse --- horse races and baseball playing and dancing, that was about the size of the amusement here. Well then, when the Sand Reef was opened up, and they couldn't get through here, the county came down here and put in a 300-foot bridge. It starts just the other side of that tree, and went out that way. And then the road went out west here, and went across the bridge and then turned north to go to Burns. And when that bridge went in, that's when Charlie Haines come down here and put in this store. He saw what the, what it

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was, and then the settling was, the settlers were coming in too. And then all this country to the south here, going back and forth to Burns, had to come right through here. Well, he got all that too.

(Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Smart man.

MARCUS: You bet. He sure was. Yep. He had a system that was found out after. A fellow told me about it afterwards, after he died. But Charlie had three or four clerks in that store there. And he had all of his people listed in a little book the clerk would put in his pocket. And under three categories, one of them was to, for sales on credit. The next one was give credit, but just what was needed. And the fourth was cash sales. So, if you came in and this clerk didn't know you, why he'd ask what your name was, and he'd step back and take his little book out and he knew just what to do with you when he came back. (Laughter) Nope, didn't have credit bureaus and all that in those days. They had to kind of take care of it themselves.

Now there was a schoolhouse that set right about in here. And a dance hall that set over there about where that rock projects out. And the schoolhouse set this way, and the dance hall, with a hotel in the back of it, set this way. And then there was other buildings and a saloon or two back on over about where that second power pole is. And then up here close to where this first power pole is that goes up here, was the Narrows Hotel. It was built in here, burned up in --- oh along in the '30's sometime. And that's about the story on the Narrows here.

DOROTHEA: Okay, let's shut us off.

BARBARA: Okay.

MARCUS: Are we on?

DOROTHEA: Yep.

MARCUS: Okay. I wanted to show you the Field Station. You see it over there between the two buttes?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Well, that was the Job Corp set up here in 1965. And it was set up to accommodate 224 boys, I think. And there were a 180 I think was the most they ever got in here. And was --- they had 70 some instructors for that many kids. And they were supposed to hold the enrollment down to just a certain percent of colored boys. But these colored boys come in here and run them white boys off. And pretty soon they started running off the personnel. And they had to get the state cops down here, and all the officials, and get them straightened out and shipped them home,

and closed the camp.

BARBARA: Oh, dear.

MARCUS: And that was the end of it there. And then these, then a group of colleges has gone together and is operating the field station, as they call it now, during the summer months. And when the school is out at the colleges, well then, these kids come in here for special courses, and for a good time. And then they close the thing along when the school starts. Probably it will be closed in September, I think now. Of course, they have a caretaker around there. He stays there all the time, to keep down the vandalism. But other than that, that's all that has been done.

Now we're getting over in here to where you're looking into the refuge over here on this side. And it's on this side here, is a crested wheat seeding that the BLM put in here about the 1970's. '70, '71, '72, early '70's anyway. There is 12,000 acres out in here that was seeded to crested wheat. And all fenced, and cross-fenced and water in it and all. It's a fine setup here. And then they had a fire here a couple three years ago that burnt all this country here. And they re-seeded this to crested wheat. But they haven't had much luck for some reason or another.

DOROTHEA: Not enough moisture when they first planted the seed, maybe.

MARCUS: Yeah. And then it seemed like when these fires go through, in this case here; you see how it's growing up again to brush. But over here where it was graded, why they get a little different situation. Kill all the broad-leaf plants that would be interfering with your seeding, which you wouldn't over in here. And so, there is the difference in the fields right there.

Now right up ahead of us here, between here, this is called Saddle Butte. You see the saddle, the saddle horn where you put your dally on? And it's called Harris Flat. From Jinks Harris and his family, his father --- Bill was his father. Came up here and homesteaded just the other side of this butte up in there. And so, it's called Harris Flat then.

DOROTHEA: I don't know if your door is shut.

MARCUS: Is that what's wrong? Yeah, it feels like it's shut. Well anyway, we'll talk a little louder.

DOROTHEA: I think you're recording fine. I had you --- I was listening to you a while ago.

MARCUS: Well, back here in the, oh along in '32 and sometime, there was four families came in and went up on this hill here and homesteaded. Each one of them. And where they were joining them, they just made a block, you see, of homesteads. And right in the center there is where they built their homes. So, everybody --- four houses, and they were all right there together. And they

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were digging a well then that would accommodate everybody. And in the meantime, they were hauling water from Bill Harris' homestead, which is --- the house is just the other side of this point here. Hauling it up there in barrels. And a fellow by the name of Simpson fell in this well, and was killed. And that settled the homesteading right there. They picked up and left.

And a year ago last summer, a fellow came into the museum and introduced himself as Curtis. And he was just a kid with his parents up here, and he remembers a fellow falling in the well and all. And they left there then, and his father was a carpenter, and a good one, and he built the Grain Camp Dam, the first one here, for the company up here ahead of us. We won't go by it, but be near it. And that was the end of that project there. And then this land was being acquired; they were there long enough that they proved up on it. And they got a title to it, and then Virgil Moon over at the Double O traded for it. No --- it belonged to the BLM, that was it. He traded with the BLM and got the, and has this property up in here. You can see where his headquarters are right there. And he owns this over here too. And they pump water in the line and bring it out in here from that pump clear up there.

DOROTHEA: Well, does he live out in this area?

MARCUS: No, he lives over at the Double O.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

MARCUS: Virgil is dead now.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARCUS: He has been dead for some time. You must have knew him.

DOROTHEA: But Joe ---

MARCUS: Yeah, Joe, uh huh. Then they had another fire up here a couple years ago. You can see where it burnt up through here, and up on the mountain and around. Seeded most all of this to crested wheat too, I think. ... like it is down there on the other fire. They are about a year or two apart on those fires.

BARBARA: They are pretty lucky this year; they didn't get any out in here.

MARCUS: By gosh they were, weren't they? They didn't have a fire at all.

DOROTHEA: Really.

MARCUS: But you can't believe --- this fire went --- we'll see it up here a little farther, went across this country here, independent of this fire. They've had fires all up through here. And you go up there, and the wildflowers were just everywhere that you've never seen before where they had that

fire.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Now this is called Noriel Flat. A fellow by the name of Jim Noriel homesteaded in here many years ago. And they named this little basin after him here, Jim Noriel. And this is the refuge, just right over here. We're just paralleling it here. And that's called Rattlesnake Butte there. And then Rockford Lane was built through here. There was a ... rock from the Blitzen River over there that you could drive across it at any time. There was a solid bottom, and the banks were good. And people coming through this way, or coming from Idaho and that country, it took you right down through the Lane, right there. That's the way they would cross the valley. The rest of them, you know, couldn't cross the river. No bridges or anything. And they had a post office there that was called Blitzen. And a fellow by the name of Howell had it for a couple of years. He had a little store there, and there were other settlers there. And he got in on --- Pete French --- he just, he came in here, he just fenced the ... of these rims. Anything that was inside was his. And people got next to it, he had a lot of ... fenced in, and land fenced in, so they went in and homesteaded it. And around here, Rockford Lane was one of the places that did this.

And that's what the --- where Oliver was living when he killed Pete French in '97. He had homesteaded 160 acres right in the middle of French's field, and he didn't like that one bit.

BARBARA: That was out towards Rockford Lane, is where Oliver lived?

MARCUS: Yeah. Yeah, he was up above Rockford Lane about a mile and a half. Now this road here that you see taking off goes up here to Jack Butte. That's Jack Butte right up there. And you can --- goes right on into Catlow Valley, you can follow it through there. Or you get up on top and you turn to the west and you can go through to Hart Mountain country. You go through Rock Creek where the Millers live, and Foster Flat country and all that by going on that road. The three C's put the road in there in 1939 --- '40.

Now we're getting back at the refuge. You see here he had this rim up here for a fence, and they had to go around this way to go on to the "P" Ranch. This road was put through here in the 1930's, early '30's. Now if you're going to see any birds, this is the only place they'll be is right here. A few mud hens out there, coots.

BARBARA: How were the numbers on birds this spring?

MARCUS: What?

BARBARA: How were the numbers on birds this spring and summer? Were they increasing?

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MARCUS: Well, you never see them. They tell you that they are. But you never see them. I think they're paper birds more than they are --- (Laughter) Yeah.

BARBARA: Well, we've driven out a few times, and we don't really see all that many. But I guess we don't come at the right times maybe.

MARCUS: There ain't many to see, that's just the whole story. There's just not --- the bird population, the duck population especially is way down this year according to what I've been reading in the paper.

DOROTHEA: We've got a lot more birds where we live than there used to be since this has been so flooded, and closed down.

MARCUS: Yeah, we went to, we went out to Harney here the other day, and there was some water that was coming out of Bridge Creek I guess there, doesn't it?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARCUS: And the first time we've seen birds down in there. They were as thick as could be. But you come over here, and you don't see any.

Now these canals here, this time of year, or a little earlier especially, used to be you couldn't set another bird in there. It would just be full of young birds, and they'd stay here. And they'd raise lots of grain around the country, and they'd fly out into the grain fields.

Now John Scharff has a habit of passing out --- both of you know John.

BARBARA: Yes.

MARCUS: He fell off this rim right up here on his head, back in here ---

BARBARA: Oh, is that the one where they had to rush him into the hospital?

MARCUS: Yes, that's the one.

BARBARA: Yes.

MARCUS: He laid there, and they dragged him down there and put him --- threw him in the back of his pickup. And he come to when he got to Burns. (Laughter)

BARBARA: I remember hearing that story. (Laughter)

MARCUS: Well, that's where it happened. Now this is called the Buena Vista country all through here.

DOROTHEA: Now I'll know where Buena Vista is.

MARCUS: Well, we'll drive in up here.

BARBARA: Now is this refuge that cuts the grass up here?

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MARCUS: Yeah, ... cut that. I don't know who has this field right now. But they change them every year around here. You can see Steens Mountain is coming in view pretty good.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that sun gets right down to it, doesn't it? It's nice and warm.

MARCUS: Now the rock quarry that the buildings are made out of at the headquarters, you'll see this afternoon, was right back there, all that rock that's in that country was hauled from right there.

There was another CC Camp here, it came here in 1935, and was disbanded in '42. At the end of '42 these camps were all gone. There were four camps in this country here. Two hundred men camps. And the grazing service at that time had one, had this camp here for a year or so. What is now the BLM was just called the grazing service. And they put in water holes back out in this country. Did ... put in this road that I pointed out there to you. And then they had a side camp down at Venator, at Venator Siding that they worked in that country, down in there too. And then this camp that was out at the Gap Ranch is --- was strictly BLM for grazing ... camp. They did all the range work. Now this camp ... right in here. It was a portable camp. It was just bolted together, and when the war came, why they come in and tore these camps out ... in here, and one of them brought over here to Redmond, another went to Alaska, and I don't remember where the other one went. But ... there. Now this is all Buena Vista Ranch right here. And Clyde Miller, you know Clyde, and his wife live here.

DOROTHEA: Get your clutch.

MARCUS: We wanted to stop anyway, didn't we? (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARCUS: Am I in low gear now?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: We'll drive up here just a little bit. Now the ranch house set over here under these --- well this side of these trees. About the back of that pickup. These big trees, only one or two left of them here. And I'll have to tell you this story about old Tebo. Did you, do you remember anything about Tebo, either one of you?

BARBARA: Yes, uh huh.

MARCUS: Okay.

DOROTHEA: Get pictures of the trees or anything?

MARCUS: Yeah. And Tebo was staying in this house here; it was supposed to be haunted. It had an upstairs to it --- the kitchen. I have a picture of it at home. And he said that he was here alone

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one night, and he'd go upstairs and went to bed. And just didn't much more than get in bed, well the door flew open into the room. So, he got up and closed it, and got back into bed, and the same thing happened. So, he shoved the dresser against the door there. Got back in bed, and it went a sailing across the room. And so, he decided well this was --- isn't going to work. So, he shoved his bed up against this room --- against this door. And got back in it, and just got settled down, and away went the bed across the --- the door opened and --- Said it was a nice moonlight night, and he said there was a beautiful woman in the nude walked up into the door there, and started beckoning to Tebo. And so Tebo says, well I didn't have much to lose, so he got up and he ---

SIDE B

MARCUS: Are we getting ready again now?

DOROTHEA: Now we're all set.

MARCUS: You see, we got the tail end on that, too haven't you? He got up and followed her out of the house. And she took him out to where these trees --- there are some of these trees are gone. But she pointed right down to the bottom of this tree, and so he got down there and started to digging with his bare hands. And he said the dirt was loose there, and uncovered, and he just got down, and he just could feel the rim of a jar or bottle, or something. He couldn't tell for sure what. And then Tebo would quit. He wouldn't --- everybody setting there you know, and wondering what --- (Laughter) Well, what happened then, Tebo? "Oh," he said, "that's when I woke up." He said, "I had my finger in my mouth trying to pull my teeth out." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Oh, dear.

BARBARA: Do you want a picture of the Buena Vista Ranch?

DOROTHEA: Well, yeah, so that if we, you know, we can say that this is where Tebo tells his story about ---

BARBARA: So, this is the site of the old Buena Vista Ranch, is that right?

MARCUS: Yes, this is it. Uh huh. Yeah, there was a barn here, and corrals, and the whole thing, and everything had a ranch here --- that a ranch would have. Are we disconnected yet, or we going to be on to here?

DOROTHEA: We're on.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well, this building over here on this side, and then there was another one right through here, but it didn't have the high portion in it. And I built this with CC boys in 1937 and '38

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here. This one burnt up in '59. There was a storage building here, and this was built for a barn. We have a hay mount, that's where you put your hay there. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: She's ---

MARCUS: Is she talking to herself out there?

DOROTHEA: No, she's telling what it is on the tape.

MARCUS: Then they built this house, and it's fashioned after a house down at the refuge. Only this is a three-foot, three foot longer on this left side of the house than the one down at the Sod House. I helped to build it. And we lived in it there when I worked for the refuge. I worked there for eight years. I --- we lived in there, when we left there in 1946, and quit the refuge and moved away. That's the house we left. But they built this house here for John and Florence Scharff. But they never did move into it. Moved into the headquarters there. John came in here in 1935 from Lakeview. He had been working for the Forest Service, and ---

DOROTHEA: Can you get a picture of the barn here?

BARBARA: Yes, I did.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

MARCUS: And he left the Forest Service to go to the Grazing Service. Well, they sent John in here to set up the grazing on the refuge. And they had a refuge manager here by the name of Stanley Jewett, who was strictly a biologist, and didn't care for administration at all. And so, the next thing we knew why John was acting superintendent. Then they moved him into the house, and Jewett went on about his business.

DOROTHEA: Now does Arlene do something? Does she work somewhere?

MARCUS: She works in the office down at the refuge.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she does.

MARCUS: Uh huh. We'll try to see her this afternoon.

DOROTHEA: And what does Clyde do?

MARCUS: He works on the refuge.

DOROTHEA: Oh, does he?

MARCUS: Maintenance, yeah, he is a maintenance man. His heart problem caught up with him again, and he's ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, it did?

MARCUS: He's had to be on sick leave for quite a long time here. I haven't seen him for a while,

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but I think he is getting along pretty well. The last time I inquired about him --- I haven't seen him, but I see Arlene once in awhile.

There is an overlook here, if you want to get up here and overlook the valley. You see lots of new names now, you know. Here at the top of the hill, and this just burnt out thousands of acres here. But they haven't done anything about re-planting this to my knowledge. It's a rough --- and hillside here, so they probably couldn't do it anyway.

Now the road used to, going to Frenchglen, that's it going right here, and went up the hill right here, see the --- Pete French fenced this all in here. He wouldn't let anybody inside of it.

BARBARA: Is that right.

MARCUS: And it went on until the 1930's, when this road was put in through here, down along over the hill. In fact, they had two roads. They put one in with --- for the wagons, and then when we got the cars, they had to put another one in. It was a little too steep for the cars; they couldn't pull it.

Now we're right back on the refuge again right here. See we went around the edge of it here. This is called Diamond Swamp, this country all up in through here. And Diamond Valley is the upper end of it there. You generally see some deer feeding around out here, but I guess with this deer season on, that they all run and hid, or should have anyway.

BARBARA: The last time my son was down here, we drove out here and spotted several deer.

MARCUS: Yeah, they, you generally always see a deer here. Too close to hunting season now I guess.

BARBARA: They were just standing out there watching us do our thing.

MARCUS: You have been to Frenchglen haven't you?

DOROTHEA: Once. (Laughter) I went with Judy Castles.

MARCUS: Well, this is as close as you're going to get to Frenchglen today, right here. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Our bridge group went out there one time, had dinner and played cards in the evening, and then drove back into town. It was really nice. Out to the Frenchglen Hotel.

MARCUS: You bet. It's a nice time to spend an evening there when ---

BARBARA: Yeah.

MARCUS: --- and watch the sun go down on the mountain there. You bet. Now this is called the Grain Camp --- this is the Grain Camp country here. And then this is the Buena --- of course the Buena Vista fields here. They got a field right down here they call the Suicide Field. This country

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all burnt out, and it's all, it's all peat ground, and big holes were burnt in it. And these holes filled up with dirt and hay and stuff like that, and you ride off into one of them, or a cow go off in them, and you're in there to stay. And that's the reason it was called Suicide Field. It was suicide to go in the thing.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

MARCUS: Over the years it has settled down here. And this used to be a grain field completely over here, and over on this side here.

BARBARA: Did they call it Grain Camp just because they grew grain there?

MARCUS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: I see.

MARCUS: Yes. And the headquarters was right on up the hill, up along the road there about a mile or less. Now we're going to cross the Blitzen River right here where the bridge is. This is one of their irrigation ditches. They got water out on this, and there isn't a duck in it anywhere is there?

BARBARA: I don't see any.

DOROTHEA: Well, there is mud hens or something over there. Some

---

MARCUS: Now this is the Blitzen River right here. Now this is, this is a man-made ditch. You see the water just run rampart down through the valley here. And when Pete French was killed in '97, the fellow was sent up here, by the name of South, to run the outfit. And they ran it until 1907, and then they sold it to Henry Corbett in Portland. And Corbett hired Bill Hanley to manage the thing here. So, Bill got a dredge in here and dredged from the "P" Ranch five miles out in the "P" Ranch there, clear down to almost to the Rockford Lane. Put this in a channel. And that made all this other ground available then.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

BARBARA: Now is this Corbett any relation to Corky Corbett's family?

MARCUS: I don't think so.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: The story goes that when Corbett bought this place, he had the money, and Bill had the experience. And in 1916, when he sold it out to the Eastern Oregon Livestock Company, why Bill had the money, and Corbett had had the experience. (Laughter)

BARBARA: He learned the hard way.

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DOROTHEA: Just the opposite.

MARCUS: Yeah. He just reversed things. Now here is grain fields here, you see. Doesn't look like they have been farmed at all this year. I haven't been up here this spring. But just 300 and --- 300 and some acres --- We used to have to farm them when we worked for the refuge. We had to farm the thing here, and had a strip of crested wheat over on this side, and 40 acres of alfalfa. We spent more time in here shocking grain and hauling alfalfa than anything else, I think.

DOROTHEA: Is this good alfalfa country?

MARCUS: Yeah, grew good here.

DOROTHEA: A little bit warmer?

MARCUS: Yeah, this is ---

DOROTHEA: A lot of water?

MARCUS: Well, good soil, and --- yeah it's a little warmer. If you get up to the "P" Ranch, you kind of get into another climate ... And there is quite a little difference in Burns and down on the lake there. We used to --- the snow would be gone there at home, and we'd drive over the hill there at Wright's Point, and we would drive right off into the Klondike.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Did you notice the difference when you moved into Burns? Did you notice the difference in the temperature?

MARCUS: Yes, yeah, we sure did. You bet. Oh gosh, probably every year, '82 or '83, I've forgotten what year it was now. We had two or three of them there, but our front door was filled with snow. And where I come out, we didn't have that porch on there, and we pitch it out, and before you got back in the house, it was filled up again. We had to come out through the garage there for about six weeks.

BARBARA: Oh goodness.

MARCUS: Oh yeah.

BARBARA: This was in the '40's you say?

MARCUS: No, '80's.

BARBARA: Oh.

MARCUS: Yeah. How long have you folks been here?

BARBARA: Oh, let's see. We moved here in May of 1975.

MARCUS: When?

BARBARA: '75.

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MARCUS: '75.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Well, you went through that too.

BARBARA: Yes.

MARCUS: You bet.

BARBARA: Yes, we have shoveled a lot since we have been here too. Of course, coming from Wyoming, it really didn't seem all that bad. Because we had lots of snow where we lived.

MARCUS: Well, where did you live in Wyoming?

BARBARA: Well, we lived on the Indian Reservation at Fort Washakie, which was near Riverton and Lander.

MARCUS: Yeah, I've been there.

BARBARA: And we had like 212 inches of snow during the wintertime. So ---

MARCUS: Oh, gee whiz.

BARBARA: --- we shoveled a lot.

MARCUS: I'll bet you did. Tumbled a lot too. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Yes. We were right at the base of the mountains there so we got lots of snow, and lots of wind.

MARCUS: I went elk hunting with Ray Novotney in 1960. And he lived at, his home was at Kinnear.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: They had the sawmill there. Had two brothers that was in the sawmill business. And we hunted up the Wind River Mountains.

BARBARA: Oh yes. My husband and boys hunted there too, while we were living there.

DOROTHEA: He knew you Marcus, did you recognize him?

MARCUS: I wasn't paying any attention to him. I drove around town so much now; I never look up at anybody. I'll have to get--- get out in the country I'll have to kind of raise my head. You get used to not paying any attention to anybody. Or I do.

DOROTHEA: I do too. People will tell me; well didn't you see me. I saw you. I said, "I don't see anybody."

MARCUS: Keeps you pretty busy keeping from getting run over nowadays in Burns.

DOROTHEA: Right, right.

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MARCUS: You bet.

DOROTHEA: Barbara and I went televising the other day, and I never saw so much traffic in my life, I don't think.

MARCUS: This is ... You bet.

DOROTHEA: Busy.

MARCUS: Now this is all refuge. This is the Diamond Swamp in here.

BARBARA: Is it usually kind of marshy, or was that just years ago?

MARCUS: No, it's marshy yet. Yeah. Of course, they've got a control on the water. But they don't --- they want to leave this for the birds, and the bird wouldn't get in there on a bet, you know. He just flies --- sets down on those ... and tules and he can't get out of there.

BARBARA: Said to heck with that.

MARCUS: Yeah, to heck with that is right.

DOROTHEA: They're smarter than the human being.

MARCUS: You bet. Now this is the Lava Beds over in here. The Diamond Craters they call it now. We always called it the Lava Beds. That's where we'll go through. Now we're getting right into Diamond Valley here now.

BARBARA: Now where did that name come from, Diamond? Was it a family, or ---?

MARCUS: A fellow by name of ---

BARBARA: --- do you know.

MARCUS: --- Robie came in here in the early '70's. Brought in a bunch of cattle from Idaho, and they had a diamond brand on the ribs. And that's where he got the name of Diamond.

BARBARA: I see.

MARCUS: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Is this the same Robie that had the sawmill then?

MARCUS: Yeah.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Yeah, he sold out to Pete French and went up there and started the sawmill. Now this place on the hill is just starting to show up, is the county headquarters for the road crew up in this country here, the county road crew.

And then Larry Dunn traded --- and what lake country down there, when you saw the building up there, he left there for this place here. He just moved in here for the last couple years.

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Three years ago, I guess it was, something like that.

DOROTHEA: Somebody live in the trailer or --- or is that just a camper trailer?

MARCUS: No, no they have, they have two or three. They're great hands for trailers. You will see a new one every time you come by. That looks like a mobile home there, doesn't it?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, two motor homes there.

MARCUS: Yeah. I betcha somebody in here hunting. Yeah, they got two trailers that go in right here.

BARBARA: And who's on the right here Marcus, in these other ---

MARCUS: Right up here?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Yeah, that was the Diamond, that's the maintenance crew, road crew.

BARBARA: I see.

MARCUS: Belongs to the county. Uh huh. This is Larry Dunn's stuff down through here. Now this was called the New Diamond Ranch, they had the headquarters here. Nice one too. But they wouldn't let Larry move in here because they found an arrowhead around here.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well, and stuff was in here. All you had to do was add shade trees to --- such as they are. But they wouldn't--- they found some arrowheads here, and they wouldn't let him move in here. He had to move over there, and probably found more there than they did here. They do some stupid things sometimes. Now, this is the --- this is the end of the refuge right here. And this is Diamond Valley, and the store is back up --- you see those trees up through there? That's where the store and post office is. And we'll make a right turn here, and --- or left turn --- don't want to make a right I guess.

BARBARA: Into the ditch.

MARCUS: Yeah. Go through the --- we could go up through here into Happy Valley. Would you like to do that? Would you like to go on up through the valley and come back over here to the Round Barn?

DOROTHEA: That's fine. We've got all day.

MARCUS: Well yeah, whatever you want to see. We'll do that.

DOROTHEA: You've got the wheel.

MARCUS: You've got the money, and I've got the time. (Laughter)

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DOROTHEA: Well, I don't know --- we got the time. Well, this looks like an old ...

MARCUS: Yeah, it is ...

DOROTHEA: Oh.

MARCUS: ... some of this property is changing hands around here pretty fast. Looks like they've got cattle in here on feed right now ... Now this place belongs to Charley Otley. You know Charley, I'm sure.

BARBARA: I've heard him on tapes.

MARCUS: Yeah. You can hear Charley a coming. ...

DOROTHEA: Real good road here on this --- rough pickup.

MARCUS: Yeah, they probably ... Yeah, you know these roads get pretty hard to maintain ... little moisture along once in awhile.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARCUS: That's something ---

DOROTHEA: Kind of like ours.

MARCUS: ... we had in a long time. Where do you live, Dorothy? You told me, but I don't remember.

DOROTHEA: Uh, the best way to describe it, is everybody knows where Thad Geer lives. Do you know where Thad Geer lives?

MARCUS: Yes, I do.

DOROTHEA: Okay, we live ...

MARCUS: Baker used to live there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, I know. ...

MARCUS: Yeah, I know. There's somebody got ... Norman Ranch is it now.

DOROTHEA: Oh ...

MARCUS: Yeah.

BARBARA: Is that a California outfit?

MARCUS: Yes, they are. That's ... land all over the country, kind of like Hoyts. And he has a nursery down in Pasadena that is keeping him going. They got this place here for ...

DOROTHEA: Red?

MARCUS: No ...

DOROTHEA: ... Barnes ... Dunn, what in the world is his name? Red had it for a while. Judy

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took me down through this road.

MARCUS: Oh.

DOROTHEA: We were going to see George and whatever her name

--- Jessie Hamilton. Hamilton.

MARCUS: Yeah, that was, yeah that was --- they've moved to Burns now.

DOROTHEA: Oh, they did.

MARCUS: They sold out to Clemens up here. And they live, they bought the place out there that Trent Tiller had, out to, out Foley Drive.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's right. Judy was telling me about that, that they were looking at it.

MARCUS: Yeah. That's where they're at now.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

MARCUS: Yeah, I called Jessie the other day, because ... hadn't seen her in quite awhile. Now Freddie Witzel bought this place here from his uncle Del Witzel, four or five years ago. And the refuge ... him off up here. Then he sold; Freddie sold the place to somebody last year. And a fellow by the name of Hall, I met him, is running it here. And then all of a sudden, they turned the place back to Freddie. And Freddie sold it to Rex Taylor here not long ago.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he did?

MARCUS: Yes. Uh huh. And --- now this is all Jenkins property right in here. Dick Jenkins now. ... Barton Lake, they own all this property in here too. Do you know Helen Jenkins?

DOROTHEA: No.

MARCUS: Well she lost her husband. Dick Jenkins died, and they raised this boy Dickie, and two girls. And Dickie came back and took the ranch, and bought the ranch over. There were two brothers here, Tommy and Dick. And Dickie has bought the ranch over now. Tommy died too here not long ago. He married Eleanor Jenkins ... Dick did, or Tommy did. And she is an invalid, and she is living there at home there out on South Diamond. Three different people come in and take care of her. And then they have a tenant house here, somebody lives in it. ... lives. And when you went over to see Jessie and Harvey, you turned right here.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, we went down through there. Right down through their yard.

MARCUS: Yeah, that's right. There used to be a store, and kind of a hotel right here at one time under these trees. A fellow by the name of Sid Comegys ran the store.

BARBARA: What was the last name?

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MARCUS: Comegys. C O M E G Y S. ... Now this is called, this is called the Cucamonga. And it belongs to Otleys. Now Otleys, their headquarters is right over here. And then they divided this thing up. And Harold is --- or Howard is still here at the ranch. And Charlie has that place out there we saw. And then Mary and Harold have this area over in here. And they built a new house right up on the end of that point there. Right over the --- it must be one of their buildings right there, but you can't see the house from here. But you can see it after you get on the other side of the hill. This is just a little bump sticking up here.

BARBARA: Cucamonga, how do you spell that? Where did that name come from?

MARCUS: Come from Hawaii.

BARBARA: Oh.

DOROTHEA: This was a school?

MARCUS: And then this fellow Clemens built this community hall for them here, five or six years ago. Pete ... but his wife is running the outfit now. I'll show you where they live.

DOROTHEA: This reminds me of my road, you fly over it, or you jump all over the place.

MARCUS: Well, that road goes into Mary and Harold's house. We'll see it around here, on this road here, if the willows aren't too high, and I don't think they are.

BARBARA: See the end of it.

DOROTHEA: I can see the end of it.

MARCUS: There it is.

BARBARA: That's a fancy house, isn't it?

MARCUS: Oh, you bet. They live clear to the top of it. I think it's about three stories. They have to get up on the hill to get into it I think.

DOROTHEA: Well, where does Fred and his wife live? Is that Debbie?

MARCUS: Well, I'm not right sure, but they have another place on up here. The Brown place, and they may live there, but I wouldn't say for sure Dorothy, about that. Now this is, this is where the Kiger Creek comes out. The Kiger Gorge, and the water comes out --- and that's where Clemens has his headquarters. Most all of this out through here you see belonged to Pete French at one time.

DOROTHEA: He had several thousand acres, didn't he? Hundred thousand.

MARCUS: Hundreds of thousands, you bet.

DOROTHEA: Oh, there is a buck deer laying right there.

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BARBARA: Yes sir.

MARCUS: There sure is, isn't they?

BARBARA: There's a couple of them, there's a doe down there too. There's another one over here.

DOROTHEA: A buck?

BARBARA: No, a doe.

MARCUS: A little doe, uh huh. Well, that is a three point over there I think, isn't it? A buck ---

DOROTHEA: It's a good size. I don't know.

MARCUS: Nobody can kill anything but forked horns this year, sounds like.

DOROTHEA: Forked horns, three point. Three point. They're just going to sit there and look at us.

BARBARA: He says now that deer hunting is over, I don't care.

MARCUS: Been shot at, have they ... a long time ago. Spent their lives right there probably. Now this is Diamond Headquarters, store, and what ...

DOROTHEA: Well, what is the store, back there?

MARCUS: Well, there isn't, well there is a little post office and store. I don't know whether it is running now or not. But these people who are at the Frenchglen Hotel have bought this ---

BARBARA: San ---

MARCUS: --- this building here.

BARBARA: Santillie is that their names? Judy and Jerry ---

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah. And they're, when they're --- they are ---

BARBARA: They are going to restore this too. Uh huh.

MARCUS: Restoring it now. And ---

BARBARA: I see they're working on it. A little insulation up there. A new roof.

MARCUS: Yeah, you bet.

BARBARA: New porch.

MARCUS: Lot's of lumber laying around here too, to go someplace isn't they?

BARBARA: Yeah.

MARCUS: That's a pretty nice fancy porch, isn't it?

BARBARA: Nice sitting out there in the summertime.

MARCUS: You bet. See the steel bracing they have on it there.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

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DOROTHEA: Uh huh. What's this old building behind us.

MARCUS: That was a store and a dance hall on top of the store at one time. It burnt up. Now we used to dance here. It was back in the '30's. And we went in the door right in here someplace, into the --- had quite a little living room, or vestibule, whatever you want to call it. Had a great time here.

DOROTHEA: Suppose they are going to make a little hunters camp out of it or ---

BARBARA: No, it's going to be made into a hotel and restaurant, I think. Uh huh.

MARCUS: I think so, uh huh.

BARBARA: Uh huh. I think that's their --- kind of like --- do what they do at the Frenchglen Hotel right now I understand.

MARCUS: Yes, I think that's right. And here's the post office. There was a woman here by the name of Brookshire that ran this post office --- she died of cancer a year ago --- for a couple years. And I guess maybe that's who owned the hotel. I'm not sure. But anyway --- see they've changed the windows here out on this side. Looks like they're going to put some new siding on up there. Got the corners torn off anyway. Yeah, there used to be a dance hall upstairs in this. And the stairway was around on this end. You went up from the outside right there. That's burnt out a long time ago. And they fixed it up, and they had --- different ones have had a store in here. And then this was a store. They got in competition here, and --- so ... built a store over here.

BARBARA: Think there is that much business for two stores. That's strange, isn't it?

MARCUS: Then they used to --- well they had a dance hall downstairs, right in here. And we used to put on these Diamond plays. After they ended up with no store and all, and then Clemens built this hall down here at the school, and that eliminated this one. So, it's --- Blanche McWilliams --- you knew Blanche, didn't you?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: She lived right here.

DOROTHEA: Careful our lunch there. (Laughter)

MARCUS: Stick my foot in it.

DOROTHEA: That's our juice.

MARCUS: Stick my foot in it. And this is Blanche's ranch right in here, part of it. And the road going into the Kiger Ranch is --- can see it taking off right up through there. I thought maybe you might see some of the buildings there. But I guess we can't, there are too many trees and stuff there.

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Now Wayne Ousley lives here. I don't know if you know him or not.

BARBARA: I've heard the name.

MARCUS: Been here for some time. And this is Swamp Creek. Comes down through here. Got a mule in the corral down there.

DOROTHEA: I see a roan one even.

MARCUS: Right out on that point, you see the road going up through that canyon there?

BARBARA: We have a deer or something on the road here.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, walking right down the road. Are these tame deer? Or is this --- (Laughter)

MARCUS: They better not be too tame this time of year. Looks like a fawn, doesn't it?

BARBARA: Out for his morning stroll.

MARCUS: Yeah, there'll be some more deer around here. Run into --- a little doe. Well, she is sure tame enough, isn't she?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she is. Not frightened at all.

MARCUS: No. Now this is the north side of the valley. And remember Walt Cooley and Opal --- Opal and Walt Cooley?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: They lived down where you see those trees there. They had --- they went around this way, or out the other way. They didn't go across the valley to get out like you did, going into Hamilton's.

DOROTHEA: Well, we may have to open a vent on this. I don't know whether we will blow dirt in our faces. But boy it's getting ---

MARCUS: You getting too warm?

DOROTHEA: It's warm in here.

MARCUS: I think if we open a vent here. Is there one on the floor?

DOROTHEA: There is one on the floor if we can --- I don't know whether you can reach it or not. It's way down on the side of the wall there.

MARCUS: That isn't it.

DOROTHEA: No.

MARCUS: Is that it?

DOROTHEA: Clear on the wall, Marcus. I don't know whether you can reach it or not. Yeah, keep going. You about found it.

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MARCUS: A place here in June of '78, the Indians came right down through here from Happy Valley, which is right up ahead of us here. And went down and went up ...

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And that's where Pete French was there, at the Diamond Ranch branding calves. And the Indians run them out of there. And they took to the "P" Ranch and went up McCoy Creek and out on top. And that's when the Indians killed the Chinaman cook, and shot John Witzel, and killed his horse.

DOROTHEA: Do we climb that hill?

MARCUS: Yeah. We go right around it. I don't know what's going on there, looks like a lot of tracks on it for some reason or other.

DOROTHEA: Got a fence down through there.

MARCUS: Got what?

DOROTHEA: Fence. Looks like maybe they just built the fence through there.

MARCUS: Might be. See your taillights on some of these curves here. ...

DOROTHEA: We just got new shocks on this pickup, it's a good thing or we would be bouncing on down the hill. (Laughter) I don't think Judy and I come up this road.

MARCUS: No, you probably didn't.

DOROTHEA: No.

MARCUS: Now see, you can get a pretty good view of Diamond Valley down through here now.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Come a tearing down around here and run over you pretty quick and easy.

BARBARA: Wouldn't want to meet a logging truck coming down here, would you?

MARCUS: (Laughter) You sure wouldn't. You'd have to go under him. This first ... all around this --- you can see the rim right around here. And then they built a piece of --- see this rock fence coming right here?

DOROTHEA: Yes.

MARCUS: The road ... on that side. Had a board gate in it. It went clear down, and hooked onto this rim here. He had this all fenced.

Well in the Indian War ... started Coontown over here. Then he --- he was a horseback, and if you rode over the hill here, and looked down --- and met these Indians coming right on over this next point here. So, the horse race was on. And he run through, and the guy jumped off and

opened this gate, and when he closed it he jammed it with a rock. The only thing that saved him. And the Indians couldn't jump over the rock fence, and they couldn't get this gate open for a while. There was only five or six of them in the bunch, and then he went from there on down to where ... Jenkins --- Pete French was there. And they finally got the gate open, and they were right on his tail by the time he got down there. And it was pretty early in the morning; they were doing a little branding out here in this country in the middle of June. And they just caught their horses then, they had their horses in the corral --- and the saddle horses, and turned the rest of them out, and took for Diamond. Up the "P" Ranch there from Diamond. The Indians had come in from Jordan Valley country, and they come around right over here --- this is Riddle Mountain right up ahead of us here. And they --- right here is where Pete --- where old Coon --- he rode up the road --- come over there. You can see it there. He rode up on the road there, and he looked over, and these Indians were coming right on --- coming onto the lakebed here. Right out in front of him. Well, he turned around, and he really took off for Diamond. And these Indians were right behind him too. And --- but anyway, he had about that much start on them. He jumped off, and he jammed the gate there, or they would have got him.

DOROTHEA: You can close that a little bit more.

MARCUS: How's that?

DOROTHEA: That's fine.

MARCUS: Used to be some --- ranchers or two back up in that country out in there. They're abandoned now. You can talk about ghost towns and that --- why that's strictly a ghost ranch up in there. But at one time, they had a school up in this country here too. Edna went to school here at one time.

DOROTHEA: Edna grew up in this country too?

MARCUS: No, just off and on. She was born in Seattle; her folks lived up there. Her grandmother came down here and homesteaded in 1914, right off the end of the mountain here. And they would come down and stay with the old lady. See Edna was born in 1911, so she was just a little guy, so they'd bring her along. And then they went back and forth, back and forth, and then in 1930, they bought the Princeton Post Office, and moved down here to stay. Now this whole thing in here is called Happy Valley. Now the Smyth's that you ---

BARBARA: Now where did that name come from? Why did they call it Happy Valley?

MARCUS: Well, that's just what I was going to tell you.

BARBARA: Okay.

MARCUS: Well, they moved from the Willamette Valley, or Southern Oregon rather, over to Harney County here in 1872. And they settled out to where the mill is now. There at that hot springs. They stayed there two years, and the second winter the snow got four feet deep they said right there at the mill. And they had cattle and all there, so they knew they had to do something. And they had been hearing a little bit about this country here. So, he got on his horse, old Rye Smyth, and rode over in here and found this country where there wasn't any snow in it. So, he went back, and the whole family, cattle and all, moved over in here along about Christmas time. And they were so happy to get out of that four feet of snow, that's when they called it Happy Valley.

BARBARA: Well, that's a good enough reason.

MARCUS: They had a fire up in here. They've had more darn fires, see it's all burned up in --- almost burning up the old Smyth house right below us here. This is the road the people used to go to --- out through Crane way, and ... come around through here. And the road was changed later. ... late '20's I guess. Now you're looking off into Happy Valley here. And Riddle Creek, and Smyth Creek heads up in this country here, and it all comes out down right through here. And ---

DOROTHEA: Let's stop and ---

#### TAPE 2, SIDE C

MARCUS: --- after the Indian War was over. I mean --- two or three weeks, such a matter. ... scared to death. Couple of fellows left Diamond to go over to Harney City with a team and a wagon, and they got up there about where the fence is, well they had gotten through the gate, and got out. Well, it was over toward the lakebed we come by. And they thought they saw some Indians, turned out it was some range horses that was loose up there. But they jumped on the --- they jumped off and unhooked their teams. And each one of them jumped on the horses, got a hold of the reins, and down off the hill they went. And the tug was lying around, and finally the horse stepped on the tug, and flew up and hit this fellow behind his ear. And he screamed, "Oh my god, I've been shot, I've been shot." (Laughter) He didn't fall off. They got off down home there, and he decided to go up there, and had a bump behind his ear, but there was no Indians after him.

(Laughter) I've got that on tape by Myrtle Barnes. She told --- I've got the whole thing on tape here about this whole Indian affair here.

BARBARA: Now about how many miles are we to the Round Barn from here?

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MARCUS: Oh, six or seven miles.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Maybe not that far. You go down around that point that you see sticking out there, and just back over the hill then you'll see the Round Barn.

DOROTHEA: Now why did Pete build that Round Barn out in this area?

MARCUS: Well, he owned the property there for one thing.

DOROTHEA: But he didn't have a house there.

MARCUS: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he did?

MARCUS: Yes, you bet. Yeah, they had a ranch just like this one up here. But see they --- the Jenkins boys bought the ranch, Barton Lake, and all that country in there some time --- I don't remember just when. The early '30's anyway I guess, late '20's. And that included the Round Barn. And then in the '60's they gave the barn to the Oregon Historical Society. And it belongs to the Oregon Historical Society in Portland now.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Had it since then. They reinforced it, and put a new roof on it, and fixed it up there in pretty good shape.

DOROTHEA: Well, this is a pretty new house here too?

MARCUS: This is a new house. Now that's the old house right there. You see that in pictures quite a lot.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah. See where this fire came down through here?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Make you run out with your possessions, wouldn't it?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, right.

MARCUS: They're shipping cattle; see the trucks in there.

DOROTHEA: They sure are.

MARCUS: And then that, see that little stone erection there --- the house. That's where the boys were buried that was burned. That started the cemetery right there.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

MARCUS: And --- you want to get some pictures of this Barbara?

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BARBARA: Shall I just take an over --- take an over ---

MARCUS: ... in this country here. Myrtle tells on the tape here. There was a fellow living around here; he had a dugout on the side of this hill here. We could see it, she showed it to me here, the brush had grown up, and I would have missed it.

And back in those days, every Saturday night around here they would go to somebody's house and dance. And her father was a fiddler. And this was way back in the '80's. And so, they come to this fellow's house. In the meantime, he'd built a house out in front, and that's where they danced. Well, Bob Smyth was the oldest boy, of course, and he was a baby. And they kept him ... And they put him in this saddle, and after the dance was over, they went in to get him, and of course ... was Taft Miller's father. He followed him in there, and he had a knife ... now they're doing roadwork here, aren't they? That's what's going on.

DOROTHEA: Building road or something.

MARCUS: ... 45 out and shot old George right in the face.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

MARCUS: And down he went. And so, I've got this on tape with Myrtle. There's a tractor coming down out of here.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I see it.

MARCUS: So, he said they just picked up ... and went on home. ... laying on the floor.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

MARCUS: So, he said, her father was inquiring the next day about old George. Said that Sarah Smyth, Coon Smyth's sister --- Coon-town is right on around the hill there, and inquired about old George. And it seems like old George was drooling pretty good, and he had his mouth open, and this bullet went in his mouth and come out along side of his ear and knocked a tooth out.

(Laughter) And old ...

DOROTHEA: That's George ...

MARCUS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Oh my gosh.

MARCUS: And so, Myrtle said you know my dad was --- and George and ... were good friends after that. Said Pete French had hired him to kill him. ... said he never could do it. But that night he got drunk, and got up ... but it didn't work. Here's the Round Barn and --- did some digging here. ... and they hit rock right in there, and they couldn't get down ... Corky Palmer, he built this bridge

down here ... Last ... see the water line on the barn.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

MARCUS: See it isn't level right here, but it gets deeper. It's only three feet over here on this side. It's a deer hide, isn't it?

DOROTHEA: A hide. Like a hide of some sort.

MARCUS: They used to have a stile in here, and I come up here and took it out, and put that gate in there. People handicapped a little bit, couldn't get in here at all.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: ... that old granary over there.

DOROTHEA: Okay, now we are.

MARCUS: Okay, well the first Princeton set right across over here, about where that shadow is starting. And it was a building very similar to the Lawen Store. And I think they got the post office in there in 1910. I wouldn't be too sure about that, but I believe that's right. Well, my father and mother divorced along about that time, and my father had a homestead over here on the lake. Just beyond this hill, point of this hill here about two miles right down on the edge of Malheur Lake. And he kind of closed up business there and come over and went in partners with a fellow who had the store, which was a fellow by the name of Williams, an old man. And they were sleeping upstairs, and the store caught on fire, and they just barely got out with the skin of their teeth. The old man had a dog, the old man Williams --- the dog burnt up. He was up there with him, but he didn't get out. And so then after the fire then, why they --- I guess there was a blacksmith shop, and a few other things --- it was on the road here. Princeton was on the road from the South End. It was at that time was just strictly a buggy and wagon travel. And blacksmith shop was pretty important. But anyway, the old man decided he had had enough of that kind of business, so he picked up and left the country.

And my dad moved over and built a store right on the point of this hill here. Just about where that sagebrush comes out. And he stayed there until 1918, and then he closed up business and moved out to Meridan, Idaho --- or Middleton, Idaho, and bought a store.

BARBARA: What kind of a store was it, Marcus?

MARCUS: A grocery.

BARBARA: Grocery.

MARCUS: Yeah, grocery store. And that's what he --- that's what he started a little grocery store

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here, and along with the post office. Well, the post office then was taken out and moved on around the hill here a ways. And in its place was a school, was a schoolhouse then. And my wife went to school. She stayed over here with the Davies. And there was three or four Davies kids, and they'd walk over the hill together here. And we went in there ten years ago about, and got the Davies boys and some of our kids and we walked over the hill on the trail here. I have pictures of them in that building there.

Then the building --- the post office was moved six times, all told. Two or three times over in here. And then finally ended up out here where Princeton is, right out there on the highway. And, so that's kind of the story of Princeton.

... Lane, and of course that was all under water, and everything here. But in 1878, '76, a fellow by the name of Meldrum surveyed a meander line around Malheur Lake, and this is the line that he put in here for the south boundary of Malheur Lake. And that ended up the road through here.

BARBARA: The meander line was the road then?

MARCUS: Yes.

BARBARA: Okay.

MARCUS: And ... land down below on this side, on the lakeside. And Pete French owned everything from the Frenchglen down to this lane, and across to the Sod House Springs where we were there.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And then he claimed to the center of the lake, on the riparian right of ownership.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And they went into court over it. He took some people up here by the name of Springer that owned the spring, and back this way, he had quite a little acreage in there. And they beat Pete French on it. So, he appealed and got into court, and the judge reviewed the meander line, elevation is pretty close. And he ordered another survey made, and instructed the surveyor, who was J. H. Neal, to follow the 4,093-foot contour as closely as he could. Well, when that happened then he dropped the meander line --- it was probably two miles to the lakeshore. It was two miles down here below us. And then these people who were holding by adverse possession all along through here, and the fellow that killed Pete French, his parents were living --- parents were living right down about at the end of that island right there. And they all had their homestead rights, so all

they did was just homestead on what they had there.

Well, Pete didn't gain a thing out of it. And here he started in on Oliver then. And Oliver come down, and he was up here at this place at Rockford Lane feeding some cattle that belonged to his mother in-law. He come down and spent Christmas day with his family, and the next day he got on his horse and started back up to take care of those cattle. That's when he run into French there. And French got a stave out of the fence and started beating him over the head with it, and he shot him. That's what it amounted to. But this is, this was actually, well it was the climax of the thing, if he hadn't been so dam land hungry, he'd have lived out a normal life. But the more they get, the more they want, is the way it goes.

BARBARA: It seems that way.

MARCUS: Yep.

BARBARA: But I guess he was a pretty progressive man in his early days.

MARCUS: Oh, yeah, he was ---

BARBARA: --- doing things that ---

MARCUS: --- the older he got the more progressive he got. He was around here for twenty-five years, you know.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Think what he put together and did here during that time.

DOROTHEA: He come out a legend.

MARCUS: What?

DOROTHEA: More or less, he's become a legend.

MARCUS: Oh yeah, you bet. And my mother, when she come here as a bride in 19 --- 1895, her place is gone. And her husband had homesteaded, holding adverse possession right down here. They were right out in front of Pete French too. He owned land all along through here. They acquired all this land along the meander line that he could get.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: He run down through here for a mile, or such a matter. Maybe far enough to take them in, and ... and some others. And she came here in 1895 as a sixteen-year-old bride. And she had her experiences with Pete French around here. (Laughter) She hated him with a passion, believe me. Oh, yeah. They get up some morning, and they didn't have a horse in sight. And of course, if you lost your horses in those days, you were afoot. Come along and tear your fences down. Come

and take your gate, and drag it off out into the brush someplace where you couldn't find it.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

MARCUS: And all those sorts of things. Oh, he was an ornery cuss. He didn't do so much himself, he'd hired it done, just like this George Miller tried to kill old Rye Smyth, you know.

BARBARA: Yeah.

MARCUS: He hired that done, but he wasn't around to see it done or anything. And a lot of stories goes on about people that disappeared around up in here that was --- that was a little bit --- holding adversely against him.

BARBARA: Oh, yes.

MARCUS: But anyway --- Edna taught school, then came down here in 1933. And the schoolhouse was down there where you see that, along the road there. See the white, looks like pelicans or something down there. That's where that schoolhouse was moved from up on top of the hill we saw. And it sits down there about three quarters of a mile. And I don't know what we're looking at, looks like it's white. Maybe we ought to get the binoculars out here.

DOROTHEA: There's an antelope laying right down there.

MARCUS: There's what?

DOROTHEA: Antelope laying right down there.

BARBARA: Right, sure enough is.

MARCUS: Where's he at?

DOROTHEA: Just over Barbara's head.

BARBARA: Right out here in this field.

MARCUS: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Well, you can see right out of the corner of the window here.

MARCUS: Yeah, I see him there. Is he alive, or is he --- hell he wouldn't be ---

DOROTHEA: He's laying there ---

MARCUS: Laying there, I bet he's shot.

DOROTHEA: Could be shot, but he's alive. I can't believe it.

MARCUS: He would be getting up and getting out of there by now. He should, anyway.

BARBARA: Careful your microphone.

DOROTHEA: Unhook you.

MARCUS: ... and working for the wife at the same time, I finally got one in 1934. The 4th of

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October, we've been married 54 years, the 4th of this month.

BARBARA: Oh my.

MARCUS: The government was buying the old cows during the depression, and give them twelve dollars a head to put an acid brand on them. If you couldn't get them to a shipping plant, you killed the old cow and cut the brand out. It was an acid brand, and you could collect your twelve dollars.

And then she had some yearling steers here, and she was offered twenty-one dollars a head, or three cents a pound for them there. And somebody that had seen cattle weighed --- we always sold by the head back in those days --- that you better take the twenty-one dollars, because I doubt if they'll weigh seven hundred pounds. So, I just got the cattle together and drove them right across the lake right here, and went to the Island Ranch. Stayed all night there with Frank Grout there. You remember Frank? Met the Jack Drink --- or Drinkwater, which one, what was his name --- Jack Slaughter ---

DOROTHEA: I think Bob.

MARCUS: Bob --- there in the lane, went up to Hotchkiss Lane, and he bought the steers. Worked them off, took them on up to Poison Creek Canyon, and took the old cows in and put them in the stockyards.

And got married that afternoon. And I had money enough to buy a nineteen-dollar suit at Penney's. But, I didn't have enough money to buy a belt, so I held my pants up with one hand while I said I do. (Laughter) So there I was in town with a saddle horse that wouldn't ride double with a wife. (Laughter) Channel 8, that girl, the woman that's on, they come in here, and I took them out to Blitzen, she and her photographer. So, I was telling her about that. I didn't know, never dreamed on me, I thought it would be like us around here. But they put a little box or something on your belt. And away you go with her, and you visit with her, and this photographer takes your pictures of you, I don't know how far away, and gets that voice too.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: So, it was on the news that night. So, this fellow, that gray haired fellow that gives the news with her ---

BARBARA: Yeah, Pete Schulberg.

MARCUS: Yeah. But anyway --- yeah have that fellow tell some more stories, that was a good one. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh, that's great.

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MARCUS: I sure didn't do it on purpose. I never thought about it being on TV.

BARBARA: Well, it's nothing to be ashamed of though. So, you lucked out all right.

DOROTHEA: Well then what --- did your wife go ahead and teach school?

MARCUS: Yes. She had to, to make a living for me. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well, what grades did she teach, or were they all one room?

MARCUS: It was just a country school, yeah. One to eight.

BARBARA: Did she go to a college, or did she teach out of high school?

MARCUS: No, she went to Monmouth.

BARBARA: Oh.

MARCUS: Two years. That was a, two years teaching course ---

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: --- there at the time. This was her first school, it was 1933.

DOROTHEA: Did she come and visit her grandmother, or ---

MARCUS: No, no I didn't. I met her when she come down there and applied for the school, along in the spring. And then I didn't see her until she come down and started school. She --- in those days, you kind of took turns of boarding the teacher.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: There was no place for them to stay. No teacherages as that. But --- so my mother boarded her then. And she boarded her, and I married her.

DOROTHEA: So, she didn't move out, she just moved in? (Laughter)

MARCUS: That's right. Yeah, she taught the school there until--- now let's see, Nancy was born, our first child in October the 4th, 1939. And then Susan was born on the 10th of April in '41. Married awhile before we had any family. Now this is where Taylor's live now, is on up here on this hill.

DOROTHEA: Buck, no Rex?

MARCUS: No, Rex ...

DOROTHEA: Well, did he buy that place of Freddie's for some of his relatives, or kids, or ---

MARCUS: No, he bought it for himself. See all his place is all under water over here yet.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: And he's just living off the refuge here. And if it wasn't for the refuge, he'd be clean out of business. Well, he run a thousand head of cattle.

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DOROTHEA: Well, I knew he did.

MARCUS: And so, he ---

DOROTHEA: But he's getting up ---

BARBARA: ... dates when you used to sit close to your boyfriend, and you would do the shifting.

Oh, that kind of dates us, doesn't it? (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well, that was when you --- took two to drive a car.

BARBARA: Well, you sit close and they had their arm around you, they couldn't shift. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: This is all down on tape Barbara. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh, we can scratch that out.

MARCUS: Now, ... low or high anyway.

DOROTHEA: ...

MARCUS: Yes. He had a boy.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he did have a boy. Did he work for his father, or?

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MARCUS: No, he never was around here. He was kind of a sickly kid. And his mother wouldn't stay here either. He had a, Pete French had a partner named Doc --- can't think of his name now but --- Anyway, French married his daughter.

BARBARA: Glenn.

MARCUS: Glenn, yeah, that's right. That's where they got the Frenchglenn name. And ---

BARBARA: Yeah, her name was Ella.

MARCUS: Yes.

DOROTHEA: ... Glenn.

BARBARA: Some stories say she never did come here, that her father was killed on their way here, and they turned around and returned --- went back to California. And then some stories say that she did come here. So ---

MARCUS: Yeah, well one of them went, French met her in Winnemucca, and she wouldn't come any farther.

BARBARA: Right, uh huh.

MARCUS: A lot of stories. But anyway ---

BARBARA: Whatever ---

MARCUS: Whatever it was, why --- she kept the boy down there. He was sickly. I think he died

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at a pretty young age, didn't he?

BARBARA: I think it was in '53, or something like that.

MARCUS: But when I worked there for ... I had to haul down to Willows, California, there at the Sacramento refuge headquarters. Hauled a plow down there, didn't have any plows down in that country. Hauled an old disk plow that he picked up someplace. And hauled grain down to him, and hauled this and hauled that. And the widow was staying in the hotel there at Willows at the time. Now that was in the early '40's --- late '30's, early '40's. I don't know when she died, but she was a pretty old woman by then, I guess.

DOROTHEA: She stayed in Burns?

BARBARA: No, in California.

DOROTHEA: ... in California.

MARCUS: Willows, California, in the Sacramento Valley.

DOROTHEA: Oh, Willows.

BARBARA: Yeah, I think they were married the first of February and the son was born in September.

MARCUS: Oh.

BARBARA: And French was always saying he was --- he wasn't dark at all like he was, and he was always wondering if he was really his son. Another story to be had.

MARCUS: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I'm not picking up anything, are our speakers on?

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