

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #241 - Sides A & B

Subject: Rush McHargue - With Video

Place: McHargue Home, Harper, Oregon

Date: December 7, 1988

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and we're talking and visiting with Rush and Emily McHargue at their home in Harper, Oregon. Barbara Lofgren is with me and she will be videoing the interview as a backup to the tape. We will be discussing things about his parents, Lulu Johnson McHargue, and things that happened in his childhood, and his former home of Crowley, Oregon. The date is December 7, 1988. Okay Rush, could you give me your full name.

RUSH McHARGUE: Rush Goodman McHargue.

DOROTHEA: And when and where were you born?

RUSH: Burns, Oregon. October the 28th, 1912.

DOROTHEA: And what were your parent's names?

RUSH: My dad's name was Rush McHargue, and my mother's name was Lulu McHargue. Lulu Johnson McHargue.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

RUSH: I have --- I had two brothers, and one sister living.

DOROTHEA: Can you give me their names?

RUSH: Jim and Leon, and Marilyn. Her name is Goul. G O U L.

DOROTHEA: And that's Marilyn?

RUSH: Marilyn, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: M A R I L Y N?

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And Jim, and what was your other brother's ---

RUSH: Leon. L E O N.

DOROTHEA: Leon. How many children were there altogether?

RUSH: Eight. There were eight of us. There is a family tree over there on the wall, if you'd like to look at it after awhile.

DOROTHEA: We can probably get a picture of it too. Is there something of real interest that you would like to tell us about your family? Or do we want to start by where you went to school and ---

RUSH: Well, I went to school at Crowley. My dad homesteaded out there in 1907. And we went to school out there, except in the third grade there wasn't any school. We went to Burns. And then in the sixth grade we had to go to Burns again to school. But the rest of the time was out there. And I finished my education at Vale High School.

DOROTHEA: Oh. What kind of teachers did you have out at ---

RUSH: Well, they was mostly just first year teachers. One from Nebraska. Oh, they was mostly from quite a ways away. Just first year.

DOROTHEA: What kind of a town was --- you pronounced it Crowley. I understood it's been pronounced Crowley.

RUSH: We called it Crowley.

DOROTHEA: Did you?

RUSH: C R O W L E Y.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

RUSH: It wasn't a town; it was just a post office.

DOROTHEA: Just a post office?

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And ---

RUSH: A little store.

DOROTHEA: But you went to school there ---

RUSH: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: --- for a time.

RUSH: Yeah, we had a school there.

DOROTHEA: Did the teachers live with part of the people, or did they have ---

RUSH: Yes, they did. They lived with --- except one. One of them had a little house, probably about as big as that room she lived in.

DOROTHEA: Well, I noticed a lot of the older schools, the parents ---

RUSH: Yes, they did, they ---

DOROTHEA: --- of some of the children, they kept the teachers.

RUSH: They did. They stayed with the parents around.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember some of your teacher's names?

RUSH: Well, Nellie Slayton was one. And Goldie --- isn't that funny how you can forget those things? Never think about them for so long. And Elsie --- well her dad was postmaster in Riverside. And another one was Miss Long, and Eva Nottingham and Mattie Nottingham. That was about the size of them, I think.

DOROTHEA: You're doing good, I can't even remember some of the teachers I had. You're doing better. What kind of games did you play at recess? Can you remember some of the games?

RUSH: Well, we didn't have any playground equipment like they got now. We had a --- well they built us a new schoolhouse, and they had a big plank left over. It was about sixteen feet long.

DOROTHEA: Where was this at?

RUSH: It was at Crowley.

DOROTHEA: At Crowley.

RUSH: So, we propped one end of it up on the toilet, and greased it with some pigskin, and that was our slide. And climbed the fence behind, and we'd slide down the slide. And we played --- we didn't even have a baseball. We played --- yeah, cricket, with a little stick across the hole, and take another stick and slip it around, you know. And that's about all we did. We didn't have any playground equipment at all.

DOROTHEA: You didn't put a board on a barrel and have a teeter-totter?

RUSH: Well, no we didn't even have a teeter-totter.

DOROTHEA: Oh. (Laughter) Didn't they have those games then, or they hadn't invented them or

RUSH: Well, I don't know. Well, we didn't have them.

DOROTHEA: You just didn't have them.

RUSH: We just didn't have them.

DOROTHEA: You finished your schooling in Vale?

RUSH: High school, yes.

DOROTHEA: High school. Did you go on to college?

RUSH: No.

DOROTHEA: You didn't.

RUSH: No.

DOROTHEA: What do you remember most about your childhood, something that you did?

RUSH: Oh, it was happy. We'd go riding, and gather cattle, and --- we didn't have any fishing to do. We'd go hunting, rabbit hunting, and sage hens. And it was a happy time.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

RUSH: Nothing --- we was pretty poor though. We had no money.

DOROTHEA: Well, I think most of us were.

RUSH: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: We don't live anything like they do today. That's for sure.

RUSH: I should say not. No. But there wasn't --- and we couldn't get to town anyway, because --- I remember the first restaurant I ever ate in was in Crane. And I don't know why we went --- I guess maybe my mother went to see her sister over there or something. And it was a Chinaman that run this restaurant there in Crane. And that was the first restaurant I ever had eat in.

DOROTHEA: About how old were you?

RUSH: Oh, I suppose I was about seven or eight. And --- But that town, that going to school in

there with all them kids liked to scare me to death. Never had ---

DOROTHEA: A new experience for you.

RUSH: I'd never seen that many kids.

DOROTHEA: (Laughter) Yeah. Now let's go back to your parents now. Can you tell us something about your parents? Who were their parents were, your grandparents, and where they came from? Why they decided to settle in Harney County.

RUSH: Well now, my mother's name was Johnson. Her dad --- it's in that diary I think, about her folks was --- they was both born in the east. And then my dad's father was raised in Missouri. And he was kind of a rambling man. He come to the Willamette Valley and he'd buy a place, and then he'd sell it, and he'd go back to Missouri. He made seventeen trips. But my dad only went three times, with teams they had. And then after that they went on a train. But he was only thirteen years old when he run away from home. And those buffalo horns, he picked them up on the plains. Right there in that sack. Now they're pretty old. Now he was born in 1879.

DOROTHEA: Did he blow whistles through them?

RUSH: No, no, they never ---

DOROTHEA: I see they got some holes in them, they must have done something.

RUSH: Well, I think my brother-in-law mounted them on a plaque one time. And he put them this way. And my dad was down there and he said those were on there wrong. He said they was supposed to hang this way. So, he took them off and give them back to him. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's the way it goes.

RUSH: Then I got them.

DOROTHEA: They're really --- that's interesting. I'll just lay them here.

RUSH: Yeah. That's just --- that's pretty old. Because he run away from home when he was thirteen. That would be about 1892, wouldn't it?

DOROTHEA: Yes.

RUSH: And it was between that and '79 when he picked those up.

DOROTHEA: And he found those, or ---

RUSH: Yeah, they come across the plains with a team and wagon, and the kids walked most of the way. And through Wyoming he said was the prettiest rocks. And they'd pick up these pretty rocks, and you never see a covered wagon, and they'd reach up under this canvas and drop them in the wagon. When they got to the Willamette Valley, they had about four hundred pounds of rock in there. Said the old man just raised the dickens. (Laughter) Hauling all them rocks. Guess he was a cranky man. I never knew him.

DOROTHEA: Now is this Broady ---

RUSH: No. That was my dad's father.

DOROTHEA: --- Johnson? That's your dad.

RUSH: Zachary McHargue.

DOROTHEA: Zachary McHargue.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How did they settle in Harney County?

RUSH: Well, he run away from home in the Willamette Valley, and he went to Eastern Washington and worked in the harvest. And then he went to Butter Creek and worked. And he finally, I don't know how come he come to Harney County. But he got on a stage in Ontario or Huntington, and he got into Burns in the night. And I don't know how old he was. Anyway, he got up the next morning, and he said I thought I was under a big blue pot. You know how the sky is up --- He said I'll leave here tomorrow. But somebody come along and give him a job, and he never did leave. Except he went to Crowley and homesteaded out there. But he hated that; he didn't like that. He said is was just like under a big blue pot. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: I've never been to Crowley. I've always wanted to go. My brother in-law, his dad was raised in Crowley.

RUSH: Who was he?

DOROTHEA: His name was Solomon C. Walker.

RUSH: Walker?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

RUSH: I didn't know him.

DOROTHEA: He was quite old at the time. So, I don't know who his parents were.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: But --- he grew up in Crowley.

RUSH: What did he do, work for somebody?

DOROTHEA: I don't know that.

RUSH: Oh.

DOROTHEA: I never did ask him. I wasn't interested at that time.

RUSH: (Laughter) That's funny, you know. You don't think about these things. Well, I saw in the paper the other day, when you get too old to work, then you start writing letters to the editor and to your congressman. (Laughter) So ---

DOROTHEA: What did your father do for a living?

RUSH: Well, when he went to Burns he went to work in a livery stable. And then he finally bought one. But then they went up to ranch up above --- well up the river there above the Indian Village where it is now. Then he homesteaded at Crowley, and he just farmed and ranched there the rest of his life.

DOROTHEA: What was the name of the livery stable that he had?

RUSH: Well sir, they was two. There was a White Front and a Red Front, and I don't know which one it was.

DOROTHEA: You didn't know which one it was?

RUSH: I don't know which ---

DOROTHEA: I was going to say there was a Red Front and a White Front.

RUSH: Well that's --- it was one of those.

DOROTHEA: So that was the name of them.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So then more or less he ranched?

RUSH: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Did he have cattle and ---

RUSH: Yes, he had cattle. Well, we finally starved out of there. It was too dry. No water.

DOROTHEA: Where did they go then?

RUSH: We went to Vale.

DOROTHEA: Went to Vale.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And what did he do as ---

RUSH: Well, he went to a ranch down there.

DOROTHEA: Went to a ranch also. Do you remember something about your grandparents?

RUSH: Just my mother's mother. Caroline Johnson.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us something about her?

RUSH: Well, she was a little woman, and she was crippled. And she was awful nice. But she always scared us to death with the Indians. Whenever --- we'd stayed over there with her, went to school for a while, until my mother came over there. And when we'd get ornery, she'd say, "I'm going to give you to the Indians." And you know, we were scared of them Indians.

DOROTHEA: Well, I felt the same way. That must have been one of their favorite sayings.

RUSH: I think it was. I'll give you to the Indians.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell me their names? There was Caroline and---

RUSH: His name was William Warren. And they had --- I can't even read my own writing. Eldon and Charlie and Lloyd and Hester and Ada and Leon and Lulu. There was one, two --- that's seven children.

DOROTHEA: Seven children in your mother's family.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Did your mother go to school?

RUSH: Oh yes, she went to school through the eighth grade.

DOROTHEA: Through the eighth grade.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And where was she born, and ---

RUSH: She was born in Burns.

DOROTHEA: Burns.

RUSH: Uh huh. In 1887.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

RUSH: 18 --- yeah, 1887.

DOROTHEA: So, this diary here is your grandmother's?

RUSH: Yes, that's my grandmother's.

DOROTHEA: And her name it says here is Caroline Harris.

RUSH: Caroline, or Caroline. They called her Callie. The Indians liked her. She could talk a little Indian, quite a little Indian. And that old Chief Winnemucca, and those --- she says there, you know, they held their pow wow in her kitchen in Agency Valley. But the Indians liked her. And she'd --- I know when I was a kid, she had an old Indian lady come and do her washing. And she'd have the water all hot. Of course, it was on the stove. It was just ... and they'd take it out in the yard, and this old squaw would wash the clothes. And when she'd get through, she'd give her a dollar and her dinner. But the old man, he'd come along too. He ate most of the dinner. He'd just sit in the shade and waited until she got through washing, and he'd eat most of the dinner. Well, I've seen that happen so many times.

DOROTHEA: Do you know Pete Clemens?

RUSH: No, but I know of him.

DOROTHEA: You know of him?

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: He tells the same story.

RUSH: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: He says that his parents, when they first moved where they were, well he said his parents used to feed the Indians for their room and chopping the wood and things like this.

RUSH: Oh yeah. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And the old bucks would sit out on the woodpile and watch the women.

RUSH: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: And the women would clean the clothes, washing.

RUSH: Oh yes, they did the work.

DOROTHEA: And prepare some of their foods that they were going to store for the winter.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Like at that time, they went out to their meadows and they got a lot of the old lupine or that blue stuff that grows in the meadows.

RUSH: Yes. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: They would dig up the roots of that and make their flour and all --- that was their cereal, and flour, and their main, you know, thing that they lived through ---

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: --- the winter with. So, they must have both had the same ---

RUSH: Well they did, yeah there is a few old timers left over there. Old Marcus Haines, do you know him?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

RUSH: And John Scharff would know a lot. He wasn't an old timer, but he would know a lot about that.

DOROTHEA: We're going --- we went out with Marcus Haines and did a Round Barn trip.

RUSH: Oh, yeah. I got some Round Barn pictures. Well, you probably got most of this stuff over there anyway.

DOROTHEA: You know we're really interested in this. We've got a few of these pictures that we took ourselves, and ---

RUSH: That's ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's really nice.

RUSH: That is a good picture.

DOROTHEA: Where did you get this?

RUSH: That's the Ontario paper.

DOROTHEA: Oh, it's a good picture.

RUSH: That is a good picture of ---

DOROTHEA: This long barn and hay wagon, where is it at?

RUSH: It must be in that same country. That's the Ontario Argus. I don't know --- what dates on that?

DOROTHEA: 1985.

RUSH: Oh.

DOROTHEA: It's got a real good picture and article on that. We'll have to see if we can pick up some of these pictures. Because it's got a real good picture of a, the long --- I've never seen before, a horse barn.

RUSH: It doesn't tell where it is?

DOROTHEA: No, it says Pete French's "P" Ranch Headquarters.

RUSH: Oh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So it doesn't tell what the --- That's really interesting. We'll have to see if we can copy some of that, or get a copy of that.

RUSH: You want her to copy this?

DOROTHEA: I don't know whether she could probably --- we might be able to go to the paper office and get an old copy of it or something, out of the paper.

RUSH: They got a good copier over here at the schoolhouse.

DOROTHEA: Do they?

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember something about what your daily life was like as a child in growing up in that area?

EMILY McHARGUE: Tell them about your operation on your throat.

RUSH: Oh yeah, Dr. Smith there at Burns. I choked to death out there once, and they took me over there and he cut this hole there --- I always vote for Bob Smith. That was his son. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: He saved your life.

RUSH: Yeah, it sure was. He was sure a nice old doctor. Of course, he was gone before you got there.

DOROTHEA: Well no, he was still there when I was there.

RUSH: Oh, was he? Oh, was he?

DOROTHEA: When I was there, yeah. Quite a few years. Did you have any close by neighbors?

RUSH: Oh, well, not within a mile. They was quite a ways apart.

DOROTHEA: Did you play cards, socialize, dance?

RUSH: Oh yeah, they had dances once in awhile. We'd go to the dance once in awhile. We'd go in a buggy.

DOROTHEA: Where did you go to your dance?

RUSH: Oh, either down to Cord, that's down towards Follyfarm, or over to Mud Flat, that's ... Or at the Crowley Ranch. They had a dance at the schoolhouse once in awhile there.

DOROTHEA: Did they all come in their buggies?

RUSH: Uh huh. There wasn't any cars. We didn't have a car until we was --- 1928. And there was a few around though, Model-T's. Not very many.

DOROTHEA: Now did this belong to your parents, or did ---

RUSH: What?

DOROTHEA: The car?

RUSH: No, well yeah, 1928, we didn't have one until 1928.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell me something about the car? What do you remember about it?

RUSH: It was an old Durant. And it cost I think, \$700. It was a pretty good old car. It was a tough old thing. Awful slow. Wooden wheels.

DOROTHEA: Did you drive it?

RUSH: Yes, I did. That was my first car. It was when I was sixteen. I got my driver's license and --- I still got that thing somewhere, but I can't find it anymore. You can just lose stuff, you know.

First drivers --- all you had to do was send two bits into the state, and they'd send you a license. No

examination or

DOROTHEA: You didn't have to take a test?

RUSH: No.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's the kind I need.

RUSH: (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Do you remember some of your neighbors?

RUSH: Well, we had neighbors on one side; their name was Walters. But they was just three boys. They was just bachelors. And on the other side was Winn Seawear and his wife. But that was up at the Crowley Ranch. Well, there was quite a few different people there. Joe Fine and --- you know him?

DOROTHEA: Winn Stewart?

RUSH: And Seawear, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Seawear.

RUSH: Winn Seawear. And old Ira Venator, he was a brother in-law of what's her name, lives there at Crane, Josephine? No, that's not her name. Henrietta.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah.

RUSH: Henrietta Venator was his niece by marriage. And he was an old bachelor. And there was people lived down towards Follyfarm was Cooks, and Turnbills, and ---

DOROTHEA: Now did you know Alberta Colantino?

RUSH: No.

DOROTHEA: I think she was a Venator.

RUSH: Oh. No, I didn't know her. Where did she live?

DOROTHEA: Down in that area.

RUSH: Oh.

DOROTHEA: That's all I can tell you.

RUSH: Oh.

DOROTHEA: I don't know that much about it. When you first got your car, what was your first experience with driving? Were you real schooled at it, or did you just get in it and drive it, or how did you learn to drive it?

RUSH: No, we just started driving. We'd go to Burns, and go to Riverside, and come to Vale. But there was no traffic. I mean there wasn't any traffic. You didn't have to worry about people.

DOROTHEA: What kind of roads did you have?

RUSH: Well, they was very bad.

DOROTHEA: Really bad. Rocks, and mud.

RUSH: Oh, rocks and mud, oh my gosh yes. And there is some of them still bad.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, some of them still are. Then you were sixteen when you first owned your car?

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How did you meet your wife?

RUSH: Well, that's kind of a long story too. My mother and dad had two more kids. Let's see now, I'm eighteen years older than my youngest sister. And hired her to come out and help. And that's where I met her.

DOROTHEA: She came out to help your mother with the children?

RUSH: Yes. Uh huh. And housework and everything. We had a pretty big ranch down there. Hired quite a few people at thrashing time and haying time. So, she come out and went to work there.

DOROTHEA: What's your wife's name?

RUSH: Emily. It was Maupin. Maupins are old timers at Burns too. In fact, a while back there was a Mrs. G. W. Maupin in that centennial that died. That was her grandmother.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

RUSH: And she left about four or five --- how many kids?

EMILY: Six.

RUSH: Six. Small children. They lived up the river there somewhere, above that Indian Village.

And they had quite a --- the old man was a, he was a freighter. He just --- that was his business, was freighting. Teams and wagons. That's hard to believe, isn't it?

DOROTHEA: Yeah. It really is.

RUSH: It is, it sure is.

DOROTHEA: It hasn't been all that long ago either.

RUSH: Nope.

DOROTHEA: What was your wife's parent's names?

RUSH: Virgil and --- what --- your mother's name was Edna, wasn't it? Edna Linebarger. She was a pioneer here at Vale.

DOROTHEA: How do you spell the last name?

RUSH: Emily.

EMILY: Huh?

RUSH: How do you spell Linebarger?

EMILY: L I N E B A R G E R.

DOROTHEA: And what did they do?

RUSH: He was a rancher. He worked for; he worked with sheep quite a lot. Yeah, her mother died when she was fourteen years old. He just worked with sheep and cattle, and ranches.

DOROTHEA: Did he trail the sheep into Harney County, or was it mostly ---

RUSH: Well, he worked on Steens Mountain quite a bit.

DOROTHEA: Did he?

RUSH: Uh huh. I don't know who he was working for. He run sheep for somebody.

DOROTHEA: How do you compare your life as a child, compared to today's world, and today's life?

RUSH: Well, there wasn't any money then. These kids now got money. That's one thing, that's the only difference. Oh, we didn't have the --- what do you call them, the temptations, or incentives, or something to get into any trouble like they do now.

DOROTHEA: You spent most of your childhood working a lot, didn't you?

RUSH: Oh yeah. We worked, oh yeah. Well, we played a lot too. We'd go coasting in the wintertime, and skating in the wintertime. Horseback riding in the summer. Oh, we enjoyed ourselves really.

DOROTHEA: Did you? Well, tell us more about your family now. Just kind of go back and reminisce some of your childhood memories, and things about your mom and dad that you really can remember. And something about your grandparents, and anything that you would really like us to know. And how we got to come over and visit with you. How we got acquainted this way.

RUSH: All over that little town.

DOROTHEA: That little Harrington. Harriman.

RUSH: Yeah. Harriman. Well, I had some awful nice uncles. My Uncle Lloyd, my Uncle Charlie, and this --- you know Virgil Moon?

DOROTHEA: Yes, I do.

RUSH: Well he and Uncle Lloyd's boy, LeRoy, and one other person was the first graduates from Crane Union High School.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

RUSH: I don't know who --- of course they're both gone now. I don't know who the other one was. There was three of them. Virgil Moon told me this. And Blanche McCulloch was my cousin. And Florabel Smith was my cousin. They was my Aunt Hester's daughters.

DOROTHEA: Well, then you are some relation to Bunny Laythe Pope.

RUSH: I suppose.

DOROTHEA: Because Bunny Laythe Pope is my brother-in-law's wife now. So ---

RUSH: I'll be darned.

DOROTHEA: How small is the world. (Laughter)

RUSH: She was married to one of these McCulloch boys. I remember them. Yeah, they got a divorce. I didn't know --- My mother sure did like her, Bonnie. I never knew her.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she is quite a gal.

EMILY: How about Dawson?

RUSH: Well, yeah, well --- I got two brothers buried there in Burns, Dawson and Tommy. And my grandparents, that is my mother's folks. And most of these uncles.

DOROTHEA: Are they buried at the Burns Cemetery, or where ---

RUSH: Uh huh. Yeah, there at the Burns Cemetery.

DOROTHEA: There at the Burns Cemetery. Were the brothers, did they die of natural deaths, or were they accidents, or ---

RUSH: One of them was, Dawson. He got --- was drug to death by a horse at Crowley. And I don't know what month it was. Does it say up there Emily on that --- when he got killed? Dawson? Does it have any date there?

EMILY: On what?

RUSH: On that family tree.

EMILY: Oh, up here.

RUSH: But anyway, they went to, the neighbors went to the mountain and got snow to pack his body in to take it to Burns. That was ---

EMILY: Just birthday.

RUSH: Huh?

EMILY: Nothing but his birthday.

RUSH: Just his birthday. I don't know what time of year it was, but it must have been early summer, or late spring. Because they went to Star Mountain and got snow to pack his body in to bring it to Burns.

DOROTHEA: To haul it to Burns?

RUSH: Uh huh. With a wagon and team.

DOROTHEA: Was already --- he had been killed already?

RUSH: Uh huh. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Oh, and that's how they preserved it.

RUSH: Uh huh. And the other one was born in Burns; he was what they called a blue baby.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

RUSH: He was --- I guess it was heart trouble, or, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: This is Tommy?

RUSH: Yeah, that was Tommy. And I had a brother die in Sedro-Woolley, Washington. There was eight of us. Where in the heck is the other one?

EMILY: And Frances.

RUSH: Frances, yeah, my sister in San Diego. So that's, that counts us up.

DOROTHEA: There is three of you left?

RUSH: Four.

DOROTHEA: Four of you left.

RUSH: Four.

DOROTHEA: Okay, where do they live now?

RUSH: Well, the --- my brothers --- well they live in Ontario. Uh huh. My brother is in the nursing home. The oldest, Leon, he's in the nursing home in Ontario.

DOROTHEA: Is that the same one your mother was in?

RUSH: Yes.

DOROTHEA: The same nursing home?

RUSH: Uh huh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And how much older are they than you?

RUSH: I'm the oldest one left.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you're the oldest one left.

RUSH: I'm the oldest. I'm 76, and my oldest brother is 73, and my youngest sister is 55, and my brother is 58.

DOROTHEA: And your, this Bob Maupin that lives in Crane, is he still there?

RUSH: Yes, he's there.

DOROTHEA: He's still there.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: We might ---

RUSH: His, his wife's mother was a sister to Walter McEwen's mother.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

RUSH: So, you get two little birds maybe there with one stone.

DOROTHEA: Mima McEwen lives in the nursing home in Burns.

RUSH: Who is?

DOROTHEA: Isn't it Mima McEwen?

RUSH: Oh, is she still alive? I'll be darned. Well, I didn't know that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, she's still in the nursing home.

RUSH: Well, she's pretty old.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think she'll be 90 or so.

RUSH: Yeah, uh huh. And she was a Scott before she was married. Well, you can get that from them though. But his wife is, his wife's mother was a sister of her. That was her sister.

DOROTHEA: Well Barbara, if you're getting tired, why don't you rest for a while. (Laughter) You look like you're tired. We'll sit here and we'll kind of pick up some more. Can you think of some of the things --- tell us about Harriman, and some ---

RUSH: Well, now I know --- that letter, that's all I know about it.

DOROTHEA: So that's it.

RUSH: That's all. That's --- I got curious about the thing, and I wrote to her, and then that letter is all I know about it. And my brother and sister there in Ontario went to the library and they could find some history, but nothing about Harriman. Not a thing. So that was kind of lost.

DOROTHEA: Well, I don't know how we're getting all this information, and if there isn't anything on Harriman, there will be. Because all this information like the letter you got will be filed in the library.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: We're not sure just exactly how we're going to file it, whether it will be an area document, or whether it will go into the oral history ---

RUSH: Oh, I see. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: --- files, or how just exactly. But, we're writing --- Harney County is a hundred years old next year.

RUSH: That's right.

DOROTHEA: And we're going to have a centennial book published.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And that's where Pauline is getting all these, information on all these smaller towns from some of the people that had relatives and family that have lived in these areas at one time.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So, this is how she came about having this?

RUSH: Well, there was an old fellow there in Vale said he knew about it. And his name was Craig Cochran.

DOROTHEA: He came from the Lawen area.

RUSH: Yes, he did.

DOROTHEA: I remember him.

RUSH: And he said that his folks had a hotel at Harriman, and it burned down. But I don't know, that's all I know. But anyway, this showed up after I wrote to her about this. But he is dead now. Craig Cochran is. But --- there was other old towns over there. Do you know of Vickers? They should know a lot of that.

DOROTHEA: Yes.

RUSH: I don't know; they live out there on Buchanan Road.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay. Yeah, uh huh.

RUSH: They should know some of that. Because they are old timers. And Otleys, and Jenkins, there is a lot of old timers over there if you can run them down. And some of them maybe though didn't pay attention. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well that's, you know, that's a lot of it. And it seems like a lot of this we have to wait until we get ancient before we can do an interview on some of these people.

RUSH: Uh huh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: That isn't nice to say, but it is still the way they look at it. They do have some Jenkins history and some Otley history. I don't know how much they have done on the Vickers. But that might be a project that Barbara and I might be ---

RUSH: Uh huh. I think so. Because they're --- and Hotchkiss, oh, they was old timers there. Really.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Most of the older Hotchkiss's are gone.

RUSH: Yes.

DOROTHEA: So ---

RUSH: I was over here at the garage here one time, and I said well we'll have to ask some of these old timers about that, and this Alfred White said, "What are you talking about, we're the old timers anymore." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That's right. Even as far as I go, you see, I'm getting up there to where I'm getting to be an old timer.

RUSH: Why sure.

DOROTHEA: So ---

RUSH: And you got a lot of time to go yet though.

DOROTHEA: Well, a little ways. (Laughter)

EMILY: Who is that old guy at Frenchglen we saw that said that---

RUSH: Wise, Judd Wise.

EMILY: Judd Wise.

DOROTHEA: Well, I don't know if he's still alive or not.

RUSH: I rather doubt it.

DOROTHEA: But you mentioned that you worked in the area at ---sometime you worked for ---

RUSH: Perkins.

DOROTHEA: Perkins.

RUSH: Out on the --- that's out towards the Double O. That was the old Virgil Moon place. Of course, they moved on down below. Moon is dead, but that was the Moon place. Some of them

say it's the Double O, but it wasn't really. It was part of the Hanley Ranch at one time.

DOROTHEA: At one time.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I can't remember his name. He died during that terrible cattle --- that he doctored his cows and got sick and ---

RUSH: Well, he didn't doctor those cows, that was Girard.

DOROTHEA: Girard.

RUSH: Uh huh. But I know ---

DOROTHEA: Is that the Perkins you're talking about?

RUSH: That's the Perkins. Uh huh. But he didn't do that work. His wife did. And I know, because I was there.

DOROTHEA: Well, I knew Pug was a real worker, that's for sure. That boy works out there ---

RUSH: Oh, he's a good kid, Speed.

DOROTHEA: Speed.

RUSH: Oh, he sure is. He was just a little --- five years old when we went over there. He couldn't even talk plain.

DOROTHEA: Well, I don't know, he still talks ---

RUSH: (Laughter) Yeah, I know he does. Him and his wife come by to see us one day here.

DOROTHEA: Oh, they did?

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: They got two little kids.

RUSH: Yeah, they got --- they just had the one then. But ---

DOROTHEA: I think they're both girls.

RUSH: Yeah, they are, both girls. Speed.

DOROTHEA: He was quite a good kid.

RUSH: He sure is.

DOROTHEA: Now is Pug, is she gone back to California then?

RUSH: I think she's in Arizona.

DOROTHEA: Oh, is she?

RUSH: I think so.

DOROTHEA: Do you know if she's remarried?

RUSH: Well, no I don't think she remarried. She did once, you know. She married that one guy.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah, I know, he about took her.

RUSH: Yeah, he did. But I don't think she's married to this one.

DOROTHEA: Well, what other places have you worked in Harney County?

RUSH: That's all.

DOROTHEA: That's all. Just over there.

RUSH: Uh huh. But we lived at Drewsey for about six years. But I had a place rented there. Old Milt Davises. We was there about seven years.

DOROTHEA: You say you have a son that lives over in the Crane area?

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: What's his name?

RUSH: Joe.

DOROTHEA: Joe.

RUSH: He married --- well he was married to Linda first, and then they got divorced. He married -
--

DOROTHEA: Linda.

RUSH: Linda Skinner.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

RUSH: She was. But now he's married to Mary Potter. They've got two little kids. They live down on the old Skinner place, down towards Princeton.

DOROTHEA: What's her name now? Mary?

RUSH: Well, it was Potter.

DOROTHEA: Potter. Oh, was her father out at the Crane School?

RUSH: Yeah, uh huh. That was Jack.

DOROTHEA: Well, I'm getting to know more about you all the time. I didn't know for sure just exactly what I was going to know about you. We're relating a little bit more all the time.

RUSH: Oh yeah. It takes awhile.

DOROTHEA: And where do they live now? They live on the old Skinner place.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Is that clear out at Princeton?

RUSH: No. It's between Crane and Princeton. Oh, maybe half way. It's on the right-hand side of the road. It's a trailer house, with a big shed.

DOROTHEA: And does he work for someone?

RUSH: He works for himself mostly. He's got a backhoe and he's up in Washington now working on a bridge for a contracting outfit. And, he doesn't farm. There is no well there, you know. He doesn't farm that place, but he bought it. I don't know what for, but he did. Well, I don't know. That's kind of a nice country. I got another boy in Moscow. He teaches school over there. And he's buying a house in Crane --- or Burns, he's going to retire there.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he is?

RUSH: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: He likes that. Well, we're just about to become a ghost town I think.

RUSH: Oh, you think that's gonna, not go back, that mill?

DOROTHEA: I just don't know. It's really up in the air right now.

RUSH: It sure is. We get the Burns paper.

DOROTHEA: Do you?

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So, you kind of keep ---

RUSH: Even about to lose your good doctor.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Yeah, even about to lose all of the doctors.

RUSH: Yeah. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Do you have some more relatives over there? Grandchildren, or ---

RUSH: Well, oh yeah. Joe and Linda they had --- one of them is a ball player there at Crane.

Joanna McHargue, she's a senior in high school this year.

EMILY: And Kebbie got killed over there.

RUSH: And Kebbie got killed, my granddaughter. It's been several years ago. And then Rhonda she's married to an Everhart. And they got a child. And then I got a grandson over there. He married another Potter, and they've got one. He lives in Crane. He's a janitor there at the schoolhouse.

DOROTHEA: And what's his name?

RUSH: Danny. Dan McHargue.

DOROTHEA: Why I'm asking, is because they're having a sell out of one of the stores, businesses in Burns. And they've got a big contest going, and there is an S. McHargue.

RUSH: S?

DOROTHEA: S. Yes, I'm sure it's an S. It's a name down on the list. And I was wondering if that might be some relation of yours.

RUSH: Don't know. Danny and Joe is the only ones that would be McHargues over there that I know of.

DOROTHEA: Danny and Joe. Well, let's see. What else?

RUSH: I got some little things here.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

RUSH: When I went to school there in Burns.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

RUSH: There was a man by the name of Culver Page, had a little bakery right in his back yard.

And ---

DOROTHEA: And where's this at, in Burns?

RUSH: Yeah. And we used to coast old Cecil's Hill. Now that comes down a pretty steep hill.

And I can't ---

DOROTHEA: It must be the one up where, what we call Egan.

RUSH: It could be, I don't know. But we called it Cecil's Hill. We coasted down there. There was an old warehouse there, and it had a --- well as you crossed this porch, there was about four steps, and jump off. We thought we'd done really good if we could get across there and jump off that steps. And we used to go hiking up Swick's Canyon. And that's up behind the mill. And there is old sweathouses, the Indians used to have, you know, the willows, all bent over. And then they put the hides over top and we'd --- boy, we stayed away from them. They was up and down that creek.

DOROTHEA: Were they dangerous or what?

RUSH: Well, they was supposed to have disease, you know.

DOROTHEA: Oh, diseases, okay.

RUSH: You know, that's what they used them for. And a guy by the name of Chip Smith had a butcher shop. Well, it must have been right across the street from about where the Palace is. It was a butcher shop. And it had sawdust all over the floors. I can remember that just so plain. And Lanfears, he bought hides, and he had a junk store. And it was right on down that road too, past Burns Garage.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

RUSH: Big old frame building. It was Lanfear's ---

DOROTHEA: Trading Post.

RUSH: Well, yeah. It was just junk and stuff. And you know Thad Geer?

DOROTHEA: Yes I do.

RUSH: Well it was, I think it must have been his grandfather, had a hardware store.

DOROTHEA: I. S., I. S. Geer, yeah. That's his grandfather.

RUSH: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: His dad's name was Henry.

RUSH: Oh, well it was his grandfather then. And Lunaburg and Dalton had a grocery store.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

RUSH: And Reed's had a drug store right --- well, do they still call that the Tonawama Hall?

DOROTHEA: No, they don't. Huh uh.

RUSH: Well, anyway, that's what it was.

DOROTHEA: Burnstowne Apartments now.

RUSH: Oh, it is?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

RUSH: Well anyway, it was just right on south of there that Reed's had a drug store. And this LeRoy Johnson worked for the Burns Times-Herald. Maybe they didn't call it that then, in this old Tonawama building, back that way. And that was the first linotype I ever saw. It heated that lead, melted that lead. How did they do that?

DOROTHEA: I don't know.

RUSH: But anyway, it sure was hot in there. And they ... keys in that lead --- little squares about this long, oh maybe a quarter of an inch, and they'd come out with these letters on. And they'd set this type all in these --- I'd go in there once in awhile to watch him. Well, he worked there a lot. And he was a --- depend on --- you still record that? ...

SIDE B

DOROTHEA: We paused now for a moment while we enjoyed a nice luncheon with Emily and Rush McHargue. And Barbara Lofgren will be joining us in our interview. Rush, what are your children's names? You said you had three children. Can you tell us their names?

RUSH: Bill, and Jack and Joe.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us where they live, and what they're doing?

RUSH: Joe lives at Crane; he's a, works for construction.

BARBARA LOFGREN: And when was he born?

RUSH: 1947, July the 9th.

EMILY: Uh huh.

RUSH: 1947.

DOROTHEA: Is he your oldest?

RUSH: He's the youngest.

DOROTHEA: He's the youngest.

RUSH: And Jack, he's teaching in college at Moscow, Idaho. He was born in '45. And Bill is working in a machine shop in Moses Lake, Washington. He was born in '42.

DOROTHEA: How many grandchildren do you have?

RUSH: Oh, up there on the wall. How many is there Emily? Thirteen, fourteen, fifteen about. Oh, about fifteen I think.

BARBARA: That's a good group.

RUSH: That's part of them.

DOROTHEA: You've got a good-looking bunch of kids there.

RUSH: We've got two great-grandkids.

DOROTHEA: And this is somebody that has gotten married? Is that some of your ---

RUSH: That's a granddaughter.

DOROTHEA: Who did she marry?

RUSH: Robby Winter. She says not Winters, Winter. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Robby Winter.

RUSH: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Can we back up just a little bit? When were you married?

RUSH: 1934, at Payette, Idaho.

BARBARA: Payette, Idaho.

DOROTHEA: What month?

RUSH: June 16th.

DOROTHEA: June 16th.

BARBARA: Can you tell us a little bit about your mother?

RUSH: Well, yeah. What do you want me to tell you?

BARBARA: Well, I wasn't in on the very beginning here. When did she come to Harney County, or was she born in Harney County?

RUSH: Well, she was born in Burns.

BARBARA: Born in --- okay.

RUSH: 1889.

BARBARA: 1889.

EMILY: She delivered papers in Burns on a bicycle.

RUSH: Yeah, she ---

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

RUSH: Well she, her dad had always give them a dollar a day to buy meat. And that fed them, the whole bunch of them, a dollar. And she was married when she was sixteen. And then they moved up above Burns, up the, up the river I guess. On a ranch, they leased it. And then they went to Crowley and homesteaded out there in 1907.

BARBARA: And did she just work around the ranch then, or did she have other odd jobs that she did?

RUSH: No, she just worked on the ranch.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Kept her plenty busy just taking care of the kids, and cooking, and all that.

RUSH: Oh yeah, she --- That old washing them clothes with that old board, oh boy.

BARBARA: Yes.

RUSH: I say --- And of course she --- my dad he worked out, he work on the roads, or work at the Crowley Ranch, or --- He was an ambitious person. And it was hard-up times. I'll tell you, they didn't have any money. And she'd go riding, she'd go even ride and get the cows in. She worked awful hard.

DOROTHEA: Did you milk cows?

RUSH: Just very few.

DOROTHEA: Just for your own use.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: How about supplies? Where did you go to get your supplies?

RUSH: Well, mostly went to Riverside.

DOROTHEA: Which is ---

RUSH: They had, I think they had two grocery stores in Riverside at that time.

DOROTHEA: How far away from Crowley was Riverside?

RUSH: Twenty-five miles.

BARBARA: Did your mother make your shirts and ---

RUSH: Oh, yes.

BARBARA: --- and did she make her dresses?

RUSH: Oh, heck yes. She --- everything was hand me downs mostly. Our house burnt up.

Everything we had. And then my --- her folks from Burns sent a lot of older clothes over. She made us all clothes. She made the clothes for us. She had an old Singer sewing machine. She worked hard.

DOROTHEA: Did you, were you at home when it burned up?

RUSH: Well, yes. Well, we was going to school, our schoolhouse burnt up, and we was having to stay with the teacher, oh a couple of miles down. And we could see out the window and see our house burning up.

BARBARA: Oh dear.

RUSH: And just my --- the youngest, well my brother, my oldest brother was the only ones there. And they did manage to haul a trunk out of the house, and that was all. That was all they saved out of the house.

EMILY: ...

RUSH: Well, the neighbors, I guess. But anyway, he went out on the Paiute Lake and bought --- well half of that house that was in that picture, moved down in there. And we lived in that then. And then he bought another old homestead house. They was a homestead house on every 320 acres in that country. They just starved out. No water. Had to haul water.

DOROTHEA: Didn't even drill a well?

RUSH: Well, there wasn't any water. It was six, oh anywhere from four to six hundred feet to water.

DOROTHEA: Oh gads.

RUSH: And they couldn't get water.

EMILY: They just got up and left them.

RUSH: They just got up and left. They left everything in those houses. There was stoves, and their bedding, and everything. They just moved out. It was a shame.

BARBARA: I wonder how they could afford to leave their things.

RUSH: I don't know. I just don't know.

BARBARA: That's strange.

RUSH: I guess some kind of depression put them out there in the first place. But most of them were railroad men that had been laid off. Come in there and homestead it. And they had big promises. Well, the same thing in Harney County. Big promises on how much they could raise, you know, and all that. But they just got up and left. We used to go, my brother and I, we'd just go down and go through their houses, and take what we wanted, you know. There was, nobody cared.

DOROTHEA: Well, it would just all go to the rats anyway.

RUSH: Oh yeah, it was just the rats, oh yeah. That's all. And we kept the doors shut in the houses to keep the stock out. Keep from getting them killed in there, you know, getting the door shut. And it was just a fact. It was a shame the way people left their stuff.

DOROTHEA: Well, did they just get on a horse, or did they ---

RUSH: Evidently, uh huh. They just get on their --- hitch up their wagon or something, and just leave.

DOROTHEA: Boy, I bet that would be a ---

RUSH: Oh yeah, wouldn't that be awful?

DOROTHEA: It would. Where did you --- did you raise most of your groceries, or did you have a ---

RUSH: No, no. My dad, he hauled wool when they was --- hauled wool, and then he'd come back with a load of groceries, and dried fruit. And finally, we did get a garden. Had a --- put up a

windmill, he did, and we had a little garden. But it wasn't enough, not to go through the winter with, like potatoes and things like that. But he always bought all that stuff.

DOROTHEA: Did your mother bake a lot?

RUSH: Oh yeah, oh yeah. She, there wasn't any store. She baked the bread. Oh, we'd eat beans and dried fruit. She done all the cooking. I think she fed us pretty well.

BARBARA: Would she set her bread at night, and let it raise over night and then bake it in the morning?

RUSH: Well no, just about like it was now. The yeast was in little, oh little squares. Little hard dry squares.

BARBARA: Cakes. Uh huh.

RUSH: Uh huh. And she'd set them when she'd get up in the morning. She'd have bread made by, oh in the afternoon sometime.

DOROTHEA: Did she do this every day, or did she bake ahead?

RUSH: Well, they had days, you know. They had, certain day was baking day, and washing day, and ironing day, and cleaning day. That's just kind of the way everybody did I guess then. Emily knows more about that than I do.

DOROTHEA: How about electricity? What did you use for your lighting system then?

RUSH: Kerosene.

DOROTHEA: Kerosene.

RUSH: Kerosene lights.

DOROTHEA: How about for your washing and ironing?

RUSH: With a board, over a tub.

DOROTHEA: Washboard.

RUSH: We never had a washing machine until we moved to Vale. It was always a tub and a washboard.

DOROTHEA: Did you have electricity and enjoy the convenience when you moved to Vale?

RUSH: Oh no. No, not for a long time. We was ---

EMILY: ... outside toilets.

RUSH: Oh yeah, we did have electricity in the house though, finally. But no water.

DOROTHEA: Even in Drewsey?

RUSH: No. Not --- well we left there, and then we went back again. And they had --- the guy that was in there after us, he had water put in the house. He must have been a better talker than I was.

(Laughter) I couldn't get that old --- Milt Davis, I rented from him. I couldn't get him to put water in the house. Oh, just pack it in the bucket. Ornery old skunk. (Laughter) I went with him one time up to --- he had a homestead, he homesteaded in '83 there. I went with him one day up to his old homestead, and he said, "See that spot right out there?" Yeah. He said, "There's three Indians buried there." He said, "They was stealing our horses, and we just killed them and buried them."

(Laughter)

EMILY: He was 104 when he ...

RUSH: Yeah, he was 104.

DOROTHEA: And this is Milt Davis?

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Oh, my goodness. Where did he die at?

RUSH: At Burns.

DOROTHEA: In Burns.

RUSH: Oh, maybe it was Ontario. I don't know.

EMILY: I don't know where he died.

RUSH: I don't either. But he lived there all his life. Percy Davis was his son.

DOROTHEA: I think Percy Davis is still alive.

RUSH: No, I don't think so.

DOROTHEA: You don't think so?

RUSH: I don't think so.

EMILY: I think Hilda died too, didn't she?

RUSH: I think his wife died too, Hilda. They was in a nursing home over there in Burns for quite

awhile.

BARBARA: What grade was it when you went to, moved to Vale? You say your family moved to Vale.

RUSH: Oh, I went to Vale to go to high school.

BARBARA: I see.

RUSH: I finished eighth grade at Crowley. But I went to Burns to third grade and sixth grade.

That's where I ---

DOROTHEA: Can you remember where the school was?

RUSH: Yeah, it was up on top the hill. I was thinking about that the other night. It was kind of out of town, really. You went to --- west there. It was on that side, and kind of on the edge of the hill.

And the hospital, do you remember where the hospital used to be up there? Well, it was on beyond the hospital even. Is there a school up there anymore?

DOROTHEA: Yes, there is.

RUSH: Is there?

DOROTHEA: They've made that into the, what is, we call, used to be the Burns Grade School, which was changed to the Slater School.

RUSH: Oh.

DOROTHEA: But they built, the old school was made into the gym, and it has the sixth and --- I guess maybe the fifth and sixth grades, and the gymnasium. And then they built a newer school, and it has the first ---

RUSH: I'll be darned.

DOROTHEA: --- six grades in it.

RUSH: I know it had an upstairs, because I could go sharpen my pencil, and I could look down that direction and see where they was building that railroad that goes to Seneca. And they was driving piles, must have been across the river down there. And I could see that hammer go down, and they'd be half way up again before I could hear it, from upstairs in that schoolhouse.

DOROTHEA: I can remember the first year I went to school there. And we went to school in the

first grade in the basement.

RUSH: Oh, did you?

DOROTHEA: And then later, well the school had the lavatories in the basement.

RUSH: Yeah, that's where they were when I went to school there.

DOROTHEA: I guess maybe that's where they were all along.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I just didn't realize it. Maybe I was too young. But we had --- first and second grade was on the first floor. And then the third, fourth, and fifth grade was on the second floor. And the sixth, seventh, and eighth was on the third floor.

RUSH: Well, I must have been on the third floor then.

DOROTHEA: Remember the old slide, the fire escape?

RUSH: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: We used to play in that for hours. (Laughter)

RUSH: Yeah. They had an old janitor there, his name was, they called him Pop Sayer. He was sure a nice old guy. He never did get after the kids. Sometimes I don't see how he could keep from it. But he never did. He was the janitor. And the hospital was up that way too.

DOROTHEA: That was the Valley View.

RUSH: Yeah, that was the Valley View Hospital.

DOROTHEA: That's where Doctor Smith was.

RUSH: Yeah. Yeah, I got --- whatever I had out there at Crowley, and they hauled me into Burns there to my uncles. Uncle Austin's there. And they sent for him, and he come down. I know they put a tea kettle, and they started steaming me. And finally, I just couldn't hack it anymore, and they took me to the hospital. And there was a young doctor there by the name of Holman. And he had this thing that goes into your throat there, this tube. They took me up there, and they just waited until I passed out, and they let the air into me. I was over there; I wore that thing for six weeks. I couldn't even talk.

DOROTHEA: Choke ...

RUSH: Uh huh, it was.

DOROTHEA: Dr. Smith, I can't remember what year he came here. But I know he was here for a long time. Did you know a Dr. Grounds?

RUSH: Brown?

DOROTHEA: No, Grounds.

RUSH: No. No, I don't remember him.

DOROTHEA: I guess he was a doctor that doctored most of the Hines people.

RUSH: Oh, uh huh. You see, Hines wasn't even there yet. Well, it was a getting there.

DOROTHEA: That was started by the mill.

RUSH: They had, they was working on the mill. And when I was in the sixth grade, and they was a building that railroad track on up to Seneca. I guess maybe, I don't remember. See I think I went to school there in 19 --- would it be three and twelve and six and nine --- 1921, I guess I was in the third grade. About 1924 I would have been in the sixth grade. I don't remember when that mill did start.

DOROTHEA: I was thinking it was in 1926. But I think ---

RUSH: That's about right.

DOROTHEA: --- I heard earlier that, or heard later that it possibly was built in there earlier.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: So --- How about the Indians? Did they, were they much bother?

RUSH: No, no they weren't. And they lived right about where Hines is now, all in tepees. Right, well just a little bit west of Hines. Because you could go along there and see all their tepees. And they would all line --- that's where they lived then. They all had tepees. They didn't have any houses.

DOROTHEA: And it was mostly Paiutes at that time?

RUSH: Uh huh. And I don't know when they put them out there north of Burns. But they didn't bother anybody. Those squaws sat around on the sidewalk and propped them papooses up against the walls. But they didn't seem to talk to each other much. And they just kind of sat there and let

the time go by. I don't remember seeing a drunk Indian. But there must have been. Because my granddad they had him, had an Indian up in the court, and said, "Where did you get that whiskey?" He wouldn't talk. "Did Broady Johnson sell you that whiskey?" "No." "Where did you get that whiskey?" Said, "Oh me find them in the wood pile." But he wouldn't tell on him. (Laughter) I'll bet he did sell it to him. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Oh, they had their ways.

RUSH: Oh yeah, you bet. They wasn't --- I guess Indian and whiskey just don't mix. It just don't mix. DOROTHEA: They were always friendly then, so you don't remember any ---

RUSH: Oh no, no. But then my, well of course in that diary there, my grandmother, when she was young there, then they said they had a big war. And they sent the women and kids over to John Day and went to Canyon City there in the tunnels. But the Indians went the other way. They didn't come that way. But they had a big battle out, oh; it's on Silver Creek. It's called a battleground yet. It's above that Moon Reservoir. It's called a battleground. Then the Indians they run off and went to, off they went to John Day, they went someplace. I don't know where the heck they went to. They had, then my granddad, he made them leg irons, and fastened them together when they took them out of there. I think it's in there too. He was a blacksmith for the Indians, or for the Army.

DOROTHEA: It says in this diary that your grandmother knew Chief Winnemucca.

RUSH: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us some of the stories maybe that she had told you about him?

RUSH: Well, that's about all I know about it. She said they had that pow wow in her kitchen up --- you see they was at the Agency Valley Reservation. And he was a blacksmith for the Indians.

EMILY: No, the Army.

RUSH: For the Army. But the Indians was there. And then the Indians left there. And that's when the war started. And she said they had that pow wow in her kitchen, this old Chief Winnemucca and two other, or three other Indian chiefs. Winnemucca didn't want war. There is quite a nice story about Sarah Winnemucca somewhere. Did you ever read it?

DOROTHEA: I have the book; I've never read it.

RUSH: Have you?

DOROTHEA: I've picked the book up, sometime when I was out of town, Bend or someplace, and I picked it up. I've never read it though. It says in here that they had the pow wow in her kitchen. They didn't like any of the other Indians hearing it. So, they wouldn't let them in. And then five days after they went home, they came after their rations as usual. Do you remember anything about what happened that caused them to go on the warpath?

RUSH: No, you see that was a long time before my time.

DOROTHEA: Well, I thought maybe your grandmother might have ---

RUSH: No, I don't remember. I don't remember. But I think that war started in Idaho.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, I think it did.

RUSH: I think over around Boise somewhere. And they come through the Owyhee River, and over to Steens Mountain, and then up towards Burns there. But I don't remember, I don't know what it was. I don't know what the --- started it.

EMILY: That's something over there; they won't let you pick up arrowheads along that lake.

RUSH: No.

EMILY: We'd like to be up there.

BARBARA: No. That's off limits anymore.

EMILY: ... to get.

BARBARA: They're leaving them lay.

DOROTHEA: Well, I think they ---

RUSH: They won't lay very long.

EMILY: I couldn't leave them lay. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well, if you get one, you want to keep it hid.

RUSH: Yeah. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Can you remember something about the winters when you were children? Can you tell us something about the things that you have noticed in changes?

RUSH: Well, we don't get as much snow as we did then. I'm sure of that. We don't have as much

wind in the wintertime as they did then either.

DOROTHEA: Seems like our winter weather is going through a cycle or something.

RUSH: It's warming up. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: It's warmer. I can remember even, even, I'm not, you know, I'm just a young kid yet. But, I can remember digging into some of the snowdrifts. Us kids had our biggest ---

RUSH: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: --- plays was digging in, and making houses out of the snowdrifts.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: You never see that anymore.

RUSH: No, you don't.

DOROTHEA: Snowdrifts that went over your fence posts, and ---

RUSH: That's right. We had a stockade corral at Crowley. Oh, it was probably seven feet high. And we had a terrible blizzard there, and it blowed the snow over this fence, and it went about --- and left a snowdrift, oh it was out four or five feet from this fence. And we had three or four cows back there. Dad had to dig a hole through there to get them cows out. They was up against the fence, you know, and in the shelter. But I've never seen it since then. I've never seen a winter like that. We had a lane that went north and south there, and it just drifted that lane, oh snow was that deep I guess. We could take our sleds out there and just walk right on top of that. And just go anywhere that we wanted to. But I haven't seen it since.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember, we used to go out and shoot jackrabbits?

RUSH: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: We don't have any jackrabbits anymore, either.

RUSH: No.

DOROTHEA: But, we used to go out and shoot jackrabbits. And they would be around the stack yards. The stack yard would be out ... the haystacks. And you could lay up on top of these drifts, and the rabbits would come in ---

RUSH: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: --- and you'd have a real good pot shot.

RUSH: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Used to turn in those ears for a nickel a pair.

RUSH: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: I think that's how Daddy put groceries on our table.

RUSH: I'm sure they did.

DOROTHEA: Lots of times.

RUSH: I'm sure they did. The Follyfarm there, of course Harney County bought it with a lot of Malheur County jackrabbits too. I know them guys would take rabbits ears into the Follyfarm, you know, and trade them for groceries. I know they were Malheur County rabbits. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that was quite a --- us kids used to go out every night.

RUSH: Oh yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: We'd go out --- about, oh about dark, seven or eight o'clock, something like that. Just to where you could really know there was going to be a bunch. And you go out, and us kids got to be quite good shots.

RUSH: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: Because we'd have to make every shot count.

RUSH: Yeah. I got an old twenty-two that I bought when I was fourteen years old. Boy, it still shoots good.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, some of those old ones do.

RUSH: Yeah. I sure killed lots of rabbits with it.

DOROTHEA: That was where I learned to shoot. You were telling earlier while we were eating lunch, something about your mother working in the poor houses. Can you explain the poor houses, and what your mother did?

RUSH: Well, she cooked and cleaned. And I don't know where it was anymore, but it was up on a hill. And a guy by the name of King run it. And they had these old men there, and they was always so dirty looking. Poor old guys, you know, they didn't have, they wasn't like they are now. Yeah,

that was the last thing, was the poor house.

DOROTHEA: That house in those days was probably what we call now a nursing home, right?

RUSH: Well, they was worse. I mean they didn't have any; they didn't have the care they have now. They didn't have the cleanliness, or the care or anything like that.

EMILY: They must have had plenty to eat though, she was cooking.

RUSH: Well, but then the help eat the best. And the poor ones got the leavings.

DOROTHEA: Why were they called poor houses?

RUSH: I guess that was the last resort.

EMILY: Everybody was scared of the poor house.

RUSH: Yeah.

EMILY: I know Dad; it always worried him, the poor house.

BARBARA: I suppose if you couldn't take care of yourself anymore, and you didn't have any money, that was where they put you.

RUSH: That's right. I know, I can remember still when they had them here at Vale, the poor house.

EMILY: They didn't treat them very good sometimes.

RUSH: No, they didn't. The poor house, that was a bad deal. But that's where they ended up.

They, just like you say, they couldn't take care of themselves anymore. That was all they could do.

But they couldn't just throw them away.

BARBARA: I think that's why a lot of the, our elderly people now are so afraid of going to nursing homes.

RUSH: I think so too.

BARBARA: Because they think about poor houses, and how terrible they were at that time. And they don't want to put themselves into a position of being in a nursing home.

RUSH: That's right. But another generation, it will be all right. Just as soon as they get rid of this one, why the next one it will be pretty good. You now these generations go by before you know it.

(Laughter)

BARBARA: Quicker than we wish.

RUSH: Oh yes, yes. Not quite ready for them.

EMILY: We never realized we were going to get old.

RUSH: Oh, hell no, we never thought we would get old until we got old. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Don't you think we are living longer though?

RUSH: Oh, I'm sure. I'm sure we are.

DOROTHEA: How old was your mother when she passed away?

RUSH: Ninety-nine.

DOROTHEA: Ninety-nine.

EMILY: She wanted to live to be a hundred.

RUSH: She wanted to be a hundred.

DOROTHEA: She didn't make it.

BARBARA: She had a long full life nevertheless.

RUSH: Yes, she did. She sure did.

EMILY: And she was so good, and never complained about things, or anything.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's super.

EMILY: ...

DOROTHEA: Did she have her good mind or ---

RUSH: Oh yeah, yeah.

EMILY: Oh, she was forgetful just like we are now.

DOROTHEA: Oh, but that's, that's easy.

EMILY: But she always had her mind.

BARBARA: That's a blessing.

DOROTHEA: Right.

RUSH: Oh, yes. It sure was.

BARBARA: And how old was your father, did you say, when he passed away?

RUSH: He was 78.

BARBARA: 78.

RUSH: Uh huh. 1957, she was alone for pretty near thirty years after that.

EMILY: She told me one time, she says, "I always say to myself, I got ten more years. I got ten more years." She said, well that's only, she was pretty young then, before Dad died, and when she was in the nursing home I'd say, "Now are you still saying you want ten more years?" She said, "No". She was through. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Did she ever consider remarrying again after ---

RUSH: Oh no, no. Never did.

BARBARA: Couldn't find a beau?

RUSH: I guess not. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Well, what did she do right after your dad died then?

RUSH: Well, she lived on his social security. That's all she did. She never worked. Well, she did have a woman or two come in and live with her for a while. And they paid their board. And then she took care of my Aunt Ada and Aunt Hester for a year or two down there, until my Aunt Hester had a stroke, and they had to take her back to Burns. And Aunt Ada, her son come and got her. Her name was Mothershead. But they paid her a little money to --- But it didn't take much money then, really. Money is just no good.

DOROTHEA: Well, except for your taxes and everything, I think as we grow older we live on a little less.

RUSH: I'm sure we do. Yeah, I think so too. But like you ---

DOROTHEA: Taxes I think are the worst ---

RUSH: Yeah taxes, and insurance.

DOROTHEA: --- that a person has to ---

RUSH: Taxes and insurance. Insurance will kill you.

DOROTHEA: It's really terrible.

RUSH: Yeah, it sure is.

DOROTHEA: And you know, you can't live without insurance.

RUSH: Oh, you can't. I'm sure you, no you can't.

EMILY: So many young people don't have it because they can't afford it.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's right. We couldn't afford it when we were younger. But we can't afford to live without it now.

RUSH: No.

DOROTHEA: The younger kids, they can't afford to get it.

RUSH: They can't.

EMILY: They can't afford to get it. Now, Joe said he couldn't afford insurance. And they had a big hospital bill there too. And then he got his throat all plugged up. What do you call that?

RUSH: Some kind of a croup or something.

EMILY: I think that was five thousand dollars.

DOROTHEA: Well, it doesn't take much. My father was just in the hospital, and it was something like thirty thousand dollars.

RUSH: I had an aneurysm here three years ago, and I was in there eighteen days, thirty-six thousand dollars. I just still can't believe it. Thirty-six thousand dollars. Medicare, oh boy, I tell you, you want to, thank goodness for Medicare.

EMILY: I think that's what ---

DOROTHEA: I think probably ---

EMILY: That's what's happening.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

EMILY: He was in the hospital three days down here, and it's three thousand dollars.

RUSH: Yeah, three thousand and six dollars.

EMILY: And a pill, my god a dollar and a half for a pill. And you can buy a whole bottle pretty near for that.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Earlier, I bought some medicine for my dad, and it was a hundred and sixty-five dollars. Gad, I just about fell over.

EMILY: That's the way with him; it's about a hundred dollars a month for his medicine.

RUSH: Yeah, and you know when we got this supplementary insurance, had this extra one here, if

he wanted to pay for his medicine or part of it. Hell, nobody takes medicine more than thirty day.

Now it's been three years. Pretty near a hundred dollars a month. Gee!

DOROTHEA: Oh, I've got something to look forward to then. Because mine costs me about a hundred dollars a month.

RUSH: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: One pill I take costs me sixty-five dollars just for twenty-five tablets.

RUSH: Wow.

DOROTHEA: It's pretty expensive. I think maybe I had better go have surgery.

RUSH: (Laughter) You're not old enough for --- are you fifty-five?

DOROTHEA: Not quite.

RUSH: When you get fifty-five you can enroll in that AARP and get that medicine out of Portland.

It's some cheaper. They pay the postage. Oh, we sent for a price list, but it wasn't worth hardly --- we get it pretty cheap down here at Ontario. Well, it's not cheap!

DOROTHEA: No. They don't give anything away.

RUSH: No.

DOROTHEA: Well Barbara, can you think of ---

BARBARA: Well, I think we pretty much covered everything. Unless you can think of something else you'd like to share with us, you had in your notes.

RUSH: Well, probably think of a lot of things after you're gone.

DOROTHEA: That's the way it usually ends up.

BARBARA: We usually think of questions that we wished we had asked.

RUSH: Oh yes, I know. So, you don't have to be in any hurry anyway. All you have to do is go back to Burns. You got lots of time.

DOROTHEA: I've got cattle to feed yet.

RUSH: Oh, have you?

DOROTHEA: I didn't feed them before I left this morning.

RUSH: Where do you live?

DOROTHEA: We live, we're neighbors to Thad Geer. You know where Thad lives?

RUSH: Oh yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Well, we live in the old Tom Baker house.

RUSH: Oh, you do, I'll be darned. You live up Poison Creek.

DOROTHEA: No, no. We live right there --- Thad lives just at the bottom of the sand hill in that way.

RUSH: Oh.

DOROTHEA: Where old Glen Clemens --- did you know any of the Clemens?

RUSH: I knew of them.

DOROTHEA: The old ...

RUSH: I knew where that old Whiting place was there.

DOROTHEA: Well it's pretty close to that.

RUSH: What did I do, come loose again? (Microphone)

DOROTHEA: The old Whiting place was across where the highway is.

RUSH: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And we're setting back in a little bit.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, Tom's wife was a Whiting girl.

RUSH: Oh.

DOROTHEA: So, they all had their houses alike, and they competed with each other to see who could have the nicest house.

RUSH: Well, yeah. And then other Whitings lived down on the Crane highway.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

RUSH: And Hilton and Wayne and Norma ---

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

RUSH: --- they come to school, and I'd go to school, and they'd come to school in a cart. And

Rasmussen's lived out towards the mill somewhere, and they come in a cart. And Denstedts, I don't

know where the heck they lived. And they come in a ---

DOROTHEA: They lived out in the Rye Grass area for a while.

RUSH: They come in a cart to school. And they just had a hitching post out there. They hitched their horses up there, tie them up. Boy they must have had a lot of snow to set on sometimes when they went home. But they ---

DOROTHEA: Cold.

RUSH: Oh boy, it's cold. I guess most of them probably dead by now. I'm sure Hilton and Wayne are.

DOROTHEA: No, Hilton is still alive.

RUSH: Oh, is he?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, Wayne I think is still alive.

RUSH: Oh.

DOROTHEA: He lives down; I think he is living in California. He may not, he may have passed away. Norma is still alive.

RUSH: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: She is married to Curtis.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And I can't think of his first name. Curtis, anyway.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: His last name is Curtis. And Hilton and Eva still live there. They don't live on the home place anymore, where his mother lived. They built a house a little bit west of ...

RUSH: Oh. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Hilton is pretty crippled up.

RUSH: I bet he is. He's about as old as I am.

DOROTHEA: Well, he's had several horse wrecks, you know, that's really gotten him down. And Eva, her hips went out on her. She's had several artificial hips put in.

RUSH: Oh, I'll be darned.

DOROTHEA: So, she's not getting around too good. But their youngest boy is running the place.

RUSH: Oh.

DOROTHEA: That's Ron.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: He's helping out there at home. No, Hilton's still alive. I'm sure that Wayne is too.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: But I can't be positive of that.

RUSH: Wayne was younger than Hilton, wasn't he?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

RUSH: And Norma was younger than Wayne.

DOROTHEA: And then there was Lottie, but she's passed away. She was married to Bossuot.

RUSH: I guess I didn't know her. This Mrs. Krueger over there had a quite a time, didn't she?

DOROTHEA: Oh, she had ---

RUSH: Her daughter lives right up the road here.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, this is what I understand. But she's ---

RUSH: Karen.

DOROTHEA: Karen, yeah. I can't think of her last name either.

RUSH: I saw that in the paper, Burns' paper, what a time she had. But I knew she had been crippled up pretty badly.

DOROTHEA: She just, and she never did gain any weight. And then she went in and found out she had cancer. So, she had cancer surgery. In the paper here about, last week I think it was.

RUSH: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: But I think if that's about it, we appreciate your time. We thank you very much.

RUSH: Well I'm glad you came down. You stop by any time.

DOROTHEA: I don't get this way very often.

RUSH: Well, you might though. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Barbara, I don't know what traveling she does. My brother lives in Ontario; he's a

captain in the police force over there.

RUSH: Oh.

DOROTHEA: But we still don't get over this way very often. When we used to have cattle auctions in Vale, we'd come to the Ontario Livestock Sales.

RUSH: Oh yeah. Uh huh. They have a good one in Vale anymore.

DOROTHEA: That's where we send our cattle.

RUSH: Oh, do you?

DOROTHEA: We don't come along with them.

RUSH: Oh, oh, you just send them. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: We send them. But I don't think --- if there is anything else --- you think we can get copies of these papers?

RUSH: You want to take these and get them copied Emily?

EMILY: You mean now?

RUSH: Yeah.

BARBARA: Or, if you want us, we can just take them back and copy them, and mail them back to you.

RUSH: Well now, that would be all right. Whatever.

BARBARA: If that's all right.

RUSH: That's fine. Yeah, that's fine.

BARBARA: Okay.

EMILY: He can always get another copy, because his daughter-in-law sent him that.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

EMILY: She had them copied.

DOROTHEA: We wouldn't want to lose them for you. So, we'll have them ---

RUSH: Well, I've got one of those diaries someplace, but I can't find it. I don't know where the heck it is. But I knew, I called her up and she said, oh yeah, she had one. But she's got a lot of stuff. She's got stuff, oh my gosh, way back. Clear back to England and France.

EMILY: Well, she's a Mormon, and those Mormons, you know ---

RUSH: They got all that, they got all that. I don't know how come, but they do. I guess they've got the biggest library in the world in Salt Lake.

DOROTHEA: Well, this is what I understand. My grandfather was one of the early settlers in Salt Lake. And it was on my mother's side, and his name was ... but anyway, he was my mother's mother's father.

RUSH: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And I guess he became a Mormon. And got all this stuff started, and there is quite a history on him, and I intend someday to find it and get a hold of it.

RUSH: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: But they have quite a library there. I guess if you want to know anything, you write to them.

RUSH: Oh, yes, they got it.

DOROTHEA: And they'll get it for you. So --- but we sure appreciate the lunch, and we really didn't intend to impose on you.

RUSH: That's fine, that's great. Well, what happened to your Carpenter over there? That guy that done all the cartoons? Is he still there?

DOROTHEA: I think he's still there.

RUSH: Live there at Drewsey?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Bob Carpenter.

RUSH: Uh huh. He run for something. I voted for him.

DOROTHEA: Did you?

RUSH: Yeah. But I haven't seen any of his cartoons anymore.

I got a whole bunch of them. I thought they were pretty good on that lake. But he was ah, making fun of them people on that lake.

DOROTHEA: Well Barbara's got some good videos, and we hope that they turn out real good.

We'll see, go through it and see what we've got. And then maybe if we need some more, well we

can get it.

RUSH: Just ---

DOROTHEA: We'd like to get a picture of you and your wife. And maybe some of your surroundings, family histories, and whatever we can. And I think we'll close off with that. And let Barbara get back and do her videoing.

RUSH: Okay. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: We'll sign off for now. And thank you very much.

RUSH: Oh, you're sure welcome.

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