

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #244 - Sides A & B

Subject: Helen Davis

Place: Harney County Library, Burns, Oregon

Date: July 25, 1989

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy and I'm visiting with Helen Davis at the Library in Burns, Oregon. We will be doing some talking about her life in Harney County, and the many things that she has done. Barbara Lofgren is with us, and will be doing the video taping, which is included with this interview, at the end of the interview. The date is July 25th, 1989.

HELEN DAVIS: My name is Helen Elizabeth Lawrence Marker Davis. And I was born near Silverton, Oregon, in 1921, at my grandparent's place near the Abiqua Creek, at upper Abiqua. I was --- she was a Dunagan, and when she married my grandfather James Shepherd, her father evidently gave each child as they married a parcel of land. Because they were near the old Dunagan bridge. And it's still called Dunagan Bridge, and they were Dunagans. My great-grandfather Dunagan came to this country about 1853, and that was his second trip into the State of Oregon. My great-grandparents the Chamnesses came in 1845, to Marion County. Now all of our people have settled more or less in Marion County as they came to Oregon. The Shepherds came in 1853, and they also settled in Marion County, in the same area of this upper Abiqua Creek.

DOROTHEA: Can you spell Dunagan for us?

HELEN: D U N G --- now I need to write again. Okay --- my great-grandfather used four different spellings for Dunagan. And we are using D U N A G A N. But he has spelled it

with an I, he used a double N. They said he tried his best to not have it sound Irish. Because in this country, back in those days, early days, the Irish were not too well thought of. And he tried to not be Irish, but you couldn't change it. And there is too many red-haired people in the family to get away from it. So my grandmother was Nora Dunagan, one of his daughters.

My dad's people came from England. And they came first into New York, and then went up into Canada. And there they lived for a number of years. And then after my grandfather, before he married, came back down into North Dakota. And it was there that he met my grandmother whose people were Norwegians. And they had lived in Iowa and how they migrated to the west; I really don't know all of that. Except that's where grandmother was at, and that is where they met. And then my father was born in North Dakota, Lisbon, North Dakota.

BARBARA LOFGREN: What part of the state is that? Do you recall?

HELEN: I think it is kind of in the middle of North Dakota. I'd have to look on a map. But I think it's more or less in the middle. Grandfather Lawrence got his citizenship while they were living in North Dakota.

DOROTHEA: When did you come to Oregon?

HELEN: Then they came to Oregon, and I don't have the exact date, but only one child was born in Oregon. The rest were all born in North Dakota. I have an aunt that was born at Lisbon. The next son was Richard, and he was born at Powell, North Dakota. And my Uncle Dan was born at the same place, Powell. And then my youngest uncle was born at Silverton. And he was born in 1896, in Silverton. My father was born in 1886.

DOROTHEA: Now your father's name was?

HELEN: James Birtrum Lawrence.

DOROTHEA: James Birtrum.

HELEN: B I R T T R U M L A W R E N C E. They always laughed about the kids; they said they were half-breeds because they were half English and half Norwegian. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: And what year were they married?

HELEN: My mother and dad was married in 1919. And then I was born in '21. And they were married at Salem, Oregon.

BARBARA: Then you say your father came to Oregon when?

HELEN: As a young boy, but I don't know just when.

BARBARA: As a young boy, but you don't know exactly.

HELEN: But it would have had to been before 1896, that they came, because Uncle Bill was born here.

BARBARA: His brother was born here.

HELEN: So it was between '92 and '96 that they came. And they settled on Pudding River, and later moved up into Scotts Mills area. Now my grandparents had a prune orchard, raised prunes. And as a little girl I grew up picking my prunes to make enough money to go down to Scotts Mills and buy some hot dogs. (Laughter) That was the whole purpose of picking these prunes. I think he got about ten cents a box, and I needed a quarter to buy these hot dogs. And so I'd get my three boxes, and mother naturally would help me because I was pretty little then.

BARBARA: But was most of the area orchards of fruit, or did they have nuts around there too?

HELEN: No, it was all prune orchards. They called it even prune ridge. And it's very hilly

in the area where I come from. In fact it is the foothills of the Cascades, really. And things were mossy down there because of so much rain and that all the time.

DOROTHEA: Where did you go to school?

HELEN: My schooling was at Nobel. It was a plowed field at one time, and again it is a plowed field. My dad also went to Nobel School when he was a young boy.

BARBARA: About how far would that be from Silverton then?

HELEN: Oh let's see, it would take you about a half an hour or so for driving, give or take forty-five minutes. We did --- at Scotts Mills only had two grocery stores, a filling station that operated now and then. At one time we had an ice cream parlor, which I thought was the only thing going. I ate my share of ice cream. They had two churches. They had the First Christian, and they had the Friends Church, which were the Quakers. And I, my dad's folks went to the Quaker Church. However I never saw them in the church, but anyway that was my dad's. When they were little, most of the boys had gone there. And mother was a member of the First Christian in Silverton when she was a young girl. But the kids that I knew and everything, all went to the upper church, which was up on this steep hill. And so that was the reason I went to that one. And I didn't care to go to my mother's, because I didn't know any of the kids. And there wasn't too many of them that had kids anyway, seems like. Because there were more young people at the other church.

BARBARA: At the Quaker Church.

HELEN: Yeah.

BARBARA: I understand --- well even today there are an awful lot of different religions in that area. Just all kinds of different, the Old Russians, and the New Russians, and just a lot of different religions in that area.

HELEN: Yes, uh huh. None of --- those people more or less come up there. They had quite a time. We had two parks, we had the old Scotts Mill Park, and then they had this new one where the old flourmill had been. And these people came in and, I don't know, they got to fighting. The Mexicans would come see from Woodburn, and they had this racial type thing. And they finally had to close the new one, and just keep the old one. And of course the new one was really nice. You had the waterfalls there, and where they had dammed up the water and everything. It was great for swimming. The other was just plain water holes, you know, like they used to have a long time ago.

BARBARA: So it was Nobel, Nobel you called your school?

HELEN: Yeah, Nobel was the school.

BARBARA: N O B L E.

HELEN: N O B E L.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Did you go through all your high school there too?

HELEN: No. My father was killed; he worked for Silver Falls Logging Timber Company, at Silverton. And he was a saw filer. And it made him hard of hearing naturally, from the screech of that work, type of work. And they was on, he had been home for the Fourth of July, and he was going back on the 6th of July in 1930. And in the summertime they had, would take a flatcar and they would fix a platform on it. And then they had a, oh a framework that they could roll a canvas up and down if it was stormy or something. Because riding in the caboose in the summer was just too miserable for everybody. Otherwise, when the weather was bad they always used a caboose and went up. And of course they would be on the tail end of where the flat cars were. The engine pulling up into the mountains.

And he was an ardent fisherman, and he would catch fish and he would put them

in a gallon jug and then he would close that. And then he would sit this jug down in water in a --- oh, we used to have those big syrup cans and that type of thing, and cover them over with rhododendrons or something. And then he would call the station at Silverton and they in turn would call my mother and said your husband is sending you down a bouquet of rhododendrons. (Laughter) We knew what was in the middle of that --- trout!

DOROTHEA: Oh.

HELEN: A sneaky way of doing it. But we always got our fish. Nobody ever got away with them. And anyway he was putting his fishing tackle up on the, they had a, oh like a shelf around the top of this thing. And he was standing up on the bench that they sat on, and they shot-gunned some empty cars in on this track, which was against the law. But it didn't do us any good, because I lost at that time a ten thousand dollar insurance, which would have been good money. But we'd have probably have lost it in the depression anyway, the banks all went broke, you know. And it hit this, and it threw him onto another track, and an engine come along about that time and it cut off his hands, and both of his legs. But they figured he was dead when he hit the track, because the blow to his head would have killed him anyway. But that was what happened to him.

And I can remember at the funeral my Grandmother Lawrence, you know they used to be you only opened half the casket, and then you had to open the other half. And mother said, you know, "No way." Well Grandma wanted it open, and she was fussing around and they got her out of there, because they couldn't open it. I can remember his hands being, you know, his arms behind his back. Because on the average, you went to a funeral they always have your hands crossed. His weren't, because they weren't there.

DOROTHEA: It's funny what kids remember. Yeah.

HELEN: Yeah. And ah ---

DOROTHEA: Well how many kids were in your school?

HELEN: Oh, it was, I really can't remember, you know, right off hand. Because the Gershes were Catholics, and they had a number of children. And they would have been Leo, and Vincent, and Albert, and later Martin. So you would have had four from that family. And Landwings had three kids. Bielenbergs moved in, and there was always, let's see, two boys and a girl. Generally about three Bielenbergs, four Bielenbergs showed up. And then there was Stanley Riches, that would be another one. And people would kind of come and go. You would have that type of thing also, because at one time there was some people by the name of Conley that lived in my grandparent's house. And they had two children in school, a boy and a girl. There was another family had one daughter, and she was in school the same time I was, when I was little.

DOROTHEA: Was it kind of like a country school?

HELEN: Definitely.

DOROTHEA: Very definitely. Did you have more than one teacher?

HELEN: No, no.

DOROTHEA: Just one teacher.

HELEN: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember her name? His name?

HELEN: My very first teacher was a Mrs. Kinser. And I thought she was the greatest thing God ever put on this earth. She was a lovely lady. And the next year we had a Miss Green who was related - - - oh, I didn't count the Landwings kids. There was three kids from that family too. She didn't --- something was wrong with her health, so she didn't finish it out. And my mother's cousin Dorothea Shepherd Telfer said that she taught,

finished out the year. And I cannot remember her for no amount.

Then after that, Mother's cousin Gracie Dunagan taught school, and I went to school with her, to her.

Then when my father was killed, my mother had tuberculosis and she went to the - -- Dad was killed in July, and Mother went to the tuberculosis hospital in 19 --- no, it would be 1931, because it was after Dad's death in February. And then I stayed with this aunt by marriage; she had married my mother's uncle, Crescent Dunagan. And I went to Gracie then for another one or two years. Along in between that, the superintendent at the tuberculosis hospital was Grover Bellinger. Don't ask me how to spell that. (Laughter) I can get it, but I don't have it here. But, because I have it in our genealogical things in the Shepherd family. But he was superintendent, and he had married my mother's uncle. And Mother I guess, they said just, you know, stewed and worried about her only daughter. I'm an only child; I have no brothers or sisters. And so she just wasn't progressing or a thing, and she was, you know, it was pretty hard on her because she had no idea how I was being treated and everything. So Dr. Bellinger said, "Well Helen is kind of scrawny, we might just as well have her out there." Because I was a small thin person, and never carried much weight until my later years. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Like we all do.

HELEN: Here I am. What you see is what you get. But anyway, I missed two years of school then. But I never told any of the kids in high school and that, that I was two years older than them. They all thought I was the same age they were. And they never knew the difference. And I went to Salem Senior High School, and graduated from there in 1941. So I also went to school with Mark Hatfield. And I'll tell you; he was a super young boy. He played in the band. He never rippled the waters. He was never into trouble or



anything. He was very mannerly, and he was just an exceptionally nice person. And I'm proud to have his name signed in my annual. And I said, "How could we have ever guessed that this nice young person someday would be our governor, and then later go to Washington, D. C." Everybody liked Mark in school.

BARBARA: Wasn't he president of Willamette at one time too?

HELEN: Yeah, something, I can't remember that. But like you say, governor you know, hits you. But I think he was, he was something, because he did law. He studied law.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Did you go to college?

HELEN: No.

DOROTHEA: You didn't.

HELEN: Nope. See the war come along then, because see, this was 1941. And then when the war come along in December, and then in '42 I showed you the picture of what we did before we went to Seattle. And a girlfriend that I graduated with, she and I went to Seattle and went to work for Boeing. And to me, some of my happiest years were during the war. The people I met, and knew, and have still kept in contact with.

Had one very special person in Tacoma. She was so nice, because you know, just two girls. We lived in a house, they rented, this lady rented rooms, and we could all --- we had little electric plates and we did our own cooking and everything. And she would bring things to work, food you know, she would make things. Being she was Swedish, was an excellent cook. And she would make these different things and bring, that I could take on home, and we could eat. So we lived pretty high. (Laughter) Helen was a very special friend, and still is.

DOROTHEA: And her name was Helen also?

HELEN: Helen Glands, uh huh.

BARBARA: How many years did you work in Seattle then?

HELEN: I think I was there about a year and a half or so, two years. I can't remember you know, things, and you do things, and boy you really lose track of time.

I knew a boy that was in the Navy, and he was in Pensacola. So I thought, well I'm going to go down to Pensacola to see him. So, you know back in those days you could travel, of course you went by train, and you never worried about things like you do now in traveling. I had my mother's car in Seattle, when we went. That's the way we went up was in the car. And then we decided that I had better take it back home, which was Salem. And I was heading down that direction, and as I was leaving work on out a ways, going toward --- oh I wasn't out of Seattle too far. And this fellow was hitching a ride. Okay, he had on his ship work clothes. Because he had on --- everybody had these badges, you know, that you had your picture on, and your name, and everything else.

BARBARA: You had to have clearance to get into the plants.

HELEN: Yeah, yeah, you bet. You showed them your badge, and you wore it all the time, and your picture was on that badge. Well he was, it was on the Friday and he was going home, and, for the weekend. And so I stopped and picked him up. But you wouldn't dare pick anybody up now. No way!

BARBARA: Not any more.

DOROTHEA: No way, no way.

HELEN: But that's what I say, some of my best memories of my life was during the war, and the people I met, and knew, and was around and everything. So anyway, then I went to Pensacola and I came back out.

My mother's brother lived at Van Nuys, California. And so I got there, and they

said well why don't you go to work at Douglas, which was Signal Hill. So I moved then, my uncle took me down to Long Beach. And then I worked there a year or so, something like that.

And I needed some dental work done. So I decided maybe I better go back to Salem. So I went back to Salem, and that --- I had known the person I married previous, before the war. He was in the Army, and I don't know just where he was stationed. But he was in Salem, and around, and I got acquainted with him. I belonged to the Eagles, and he had friends that were Eagles. And that was how I met him really, was through these people.

Well then he came back. I was back in Salem again. I'd been home for a while. And he was discharged. He got malaria when he was in Sicily, and so they sent him home. And he was a person from Boise, Idaho. And he came home, and we got to knowing each other again. And we went to Boise then, and I was married in his sister's home. And about a year and a half later we had a son, Stephen James.

BARBARA: What year was this that you were married?

HELEN: '44, we were married. Because Steve was born in '45.

DOROTHEA: What was his name?

HELEN: Thad, Thadius. Thadius E. Marker.

DOROTHEA: E or D?

HELEN: Huh?

DOROTHEA: D? Thadius ---

HELEN: Thadius, yeah D.

DOROTHEA: D like in Dan.

HELEN: Thadius. And Elmo was his middle name, Marker.

BARBARA: M A R K E R ?

HELEN: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Okay.

HELEN: And this is kind of interesting. Steve is playing music with the Duntens --- well I should say Dunten, Ray, and the Miller twins. Because they played together the tail end of their senior year. So we were out at Drewsey --- or Juntura. And Lloyd, what is their name, Lloyd --- oh, shoot. Jordan, Lloyd Jordan. I had to say Eunice, and then I knew the Jordan. Okay, Lloyd Jordan came up and he said, "Is Steve related to any Markers from Boise?" And I said, "Every Marker in town." His mother was married to Steve's dad's uncle, Francis Marker. Yeah, they couldn't believe it. I said, "See, it's a very small world." And she never married again after Uncle Andy died. She always stayed a Marker. And see, she had been married to the Jordan, and then she married Andy Marker. And when he come up he said, "I can't believe this." I said, "Well, it's true."

BARBARA: So you were married in Boise then. Did you go back to Silverton, Salem?

HELEN: We went back, no we went back to Salem and we lived there. Well in fact we even lived in Portland for a while. Steve was born in Portland.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

HELEN: And then we separated when Steve was about a year old. And then I met Glen after that. And then we were married, and then Glen Richard came along. And that's about it, as far as being married and everything.

BARBARA: So when did you marry Glen?

HELEN: '49, in March. And Steve was born in December. Both the boys were born in December. Steve was the first day of December. He was due more or less on the 7th, and I thought you know, I was just really looking to the 7th of December for his birthday,

because it was in '45. And no way, he came on the first.

BARBARA: Okay.

HELEN: So it was the 1st and the 21st of December. And then I have three grandchildren in the month of June. And J.R.'s is on a Tuesday, David's is on a Tuesday the 9th, and Debbie's is on a Tuesday the 30th.

BARBARA: That's strange.

HELEN: However that goes, they are always on the same day, but there is --- they're, you know what I mean apart. There is one week where there isn't a birth on a Tuesday.

BARBARA: For goodness sakes.

HELEN: In June, or if it is Wednesday, whatever. Because you know how your dates change. So we've got kind of a kick out of that too.

BARBARA: And then what did you do while you lived in Portland?

HELEN: I of course didn't do anything. That worked for a distributor like hauling, you know trucking type thing. And then we came back to Salem, and then that was when we separated then, was after we got in Salem.

DOROTHEA: Where did you meet Glen then?

HELEN: In Independence, Oregon. And we were laughing the other day; we had company up on the mountain. And I said my girlfriend and I went slumming, we went to Independence. (Laughter) They were having a dance, cause you know; otherwise you didn't go to Independence. That's just a bunch of hop pickers over there, and that type of thing. (Laughter) So we went to this dance. We didn't have, you know we were just kind of at loose ends, so she said, "Hey, they're having a dance, let's go over and see." You know, so we did.

Okay, she went with Glen and I went with his friend, Bob. And that's the way it

went for awhile, and then Bob left. He went back east someplace, he and his family. Probably Missouri or something, because he was from the southern states, I don't remember which one. And Glen was going to go to the rodeo out at Turner. Well my mother's people have all been what you would call horse people. And Uncle Hugh used to run the Molalla Rodeo. So I said, "Oh, shoot, I'd like to go to that." So that's what happened. This girl didn't want to go to the rodeo, and I did. And then Glen and I started going together, and then we got married.

Then the reason we came to Harney County was because I had poison oak almost every month of the year. I would just be over it for about two weeks, I would get it again. I couldn't touch the cat, I couldn't touch the dog, I couldn't touch the --- Glen and the boys clothing because I would get poison oak. If I decorated the Christmas tree I had poison oak. Always had it for Easter. I don't care when Easter came; I always had poison oak for Easter, why I don't know. And so Glen said, "You move up there, you'll probably be allergic to sagebrush." I said, "No, because at Boise I had been around sage and it didn't bother me." So I was pretty sure it wouldn't bother me.

So we have lived here thirty years. We are now members of the Pioneers. We joined this year; June made our thirty years in Harney County. Now as I tell everybody on the Waterfowl Tour when I'm introducing myself, I'm from the Willamette Valley, but I'll never go back there to live. And that's exactly what I told these people this Sunday, was that I'm a true Harney County person. And I like this country, I really do. I wouldn't live down there in all that hassle for nobody. When Glen retired, I said, "If you want to go to the valley, good-bye! I'm not going."

BARBARA: So what did he do for work then when you moved to Harney County?

HELEN: He worked for Rex Clemens.

BARBARA: Oh, uh huh.

HELEN: We had been involved in the valley with logging, and saw milling; you know these little tiny gypo sawmill deals. And the fellow we was working with, and worked for, and whatever, he bought our timber that was on our place and that, was a very good friend of Rex. And Rex had told him at one time, if Glen ever leaves you, he said, "I want him to go to Eastern Oregon."

So Frank finely got it through his head, Glen had been up here, he had been looking. Betty Morgan wrote and offered us a job. Glen had talked to --- let's see, here you go trying to remember names in a hurry. Art Foss at the G.I., he had, could have gone to work there, because Art said, "Sure, come on up." And then about the time all this was going on, why Frank said, "Are you really going to Eastern Oregon?" And Glen says, "Well we got to get Helen out of this." He said, "Okay, Rex Clemens wants you." So naturally more money.

BARBARA: My dad worked for Rex Clemens over in the valley at one time.

HELEN: Did he? Oh, for heavens sakes. And so we came, and that's how come we're here.

DOROTHEA: Before we go any further, how do you spell Glen? Is it one ---

HELEN: G L E N.

DOROTHEA: Just one N.

HELEN: Only one N. Right.

DOROTHEA: Okay. All right now, what kind of work did he do for Rex? HELEN: Riding.

DOROTHEA: Typical ranch hand?

HELEN: Ranching, you know, just strictly ranching is what he did.

DOROTHEA: And what part of the country is this in?

HELEN: This is in the Diamond Valley where the main ranch is. And we, our first thing here was going to the cow camp on Steens Mountain at the old Riddle Brothers Ranch. And we had twenty-five summers. And then Kap and Cathy Ugalde were there for three summers, and then they decided they didn't want to go back. And that left Ethel without anybody all of a sudden for the mountains. And so Jiggs called and said, "Glen would you like to go back?" He couldn't load the horse fast enough and get the dog in the pickup, and he was gone! So this makes our third summer back on the mountain, which is twenty-eight summers at the Riddle Ranch.

BARBARA: My goodness.

DOROTHEA: Now what do you do on the mountain?

HELEN: He had to put out salt, he --- and when we were first here, we didn't have controlled grazing. And the BLM talked Rex into fencing, in other words having controlled grazing. We come in the spring, and come about so far, and then they had the fence, to a fence. Then when that grass was down about so far, you moved up into your next allotment. And you would go staggered that way up the mountain with the cattle. So you would open the gates, and you would get all your cattle out, and then you would shut the gate. And then they would stay in that area. Then you would do the same thing again until they progressed to the top. We also, in the years we had the Big Indian which was a great grazing place. In fact one of the easiest places for gathering out of. Because Glen would take one side of the gorge, and Rich would take the other side, and then I could come back down through the middle, pushing. And so it was easy to gather that. But then over in the other areas, we had the Watson area, had Dry, was what they call Dry Creek area, and Cold Creek, and all that type of thing. And then on up Fish, we had Little



Fish, where the old Dave Williams cabin is. And his first wife later married Joe Fine. And she was a sister to Curly Thompson and Leon Thompson.

BARBARA: Did you have just a cabin to live in up on the mountain?

HELEN: What we have is the old Riddle house, and the original part is logs. And then they added on a kitchen, and there is a porch, and an upstairs that was added at some time or other. Now I don't think, I don't feel that it was all done at one time. If Andrew Shull was alive, and that is what I keep saying to everybody, if Andrew was here he could answer so many ---

BARBARA: Straighten it all out, huh?

HELEN: Yes, because I was not smart enough to write down Andrew Shull, everything he told me. They --- part that we, the house that we live in was built by Scott Catterson in 1910. So you know they were there in, earlier. So what we call our shop, I'm sure had to have been his living quarters. The surveyed type thing that they have, these maps, it was surveyed in 1912, and it places a Dick Scott in that area where the house is. So we know that it had to have been Scott Catterson.

Because in reading the papers I have found listed, I think it's 1911 issue of where Scott Catterson had come to Burns, a well-known horse breeder from his ranch on Steens Mountain. So that put him there. He also married a schoolteacher by the last name of McCallum at Andrews. And evidently he and Ben Riddle went more that way. Walt Riddle came here to Burns more, because his name is always in the newspaper as having been in town. And Fred they said, never liked to go. And there was one issue where there was a Frenchglen item, and it said that Fred had been in town at Frenchglen. But I never got him coming into Burns.

DOROTHEA: Fred is one of the Riddle brothers?

HELEN: Is one of the Riddle brothers, uh huh. It's, age-wise Walts the oldest, and then Fred, and then Ben. Ben was the youngest brother and he died in 1915, shortly after this survey. Because his name is on this survey map. But the BLM, this fellow came up and did some looking for history, and Ben is on it. And he come up with this map and it shows, and the BLM has the map too now in their files.

BARBARA: So how long would you be on the mountain then?

HELEN: When the kids were in school, I --- we never went in until around the first of June. And Glen would go in --- first we would take the dry cows up in March. And then Glen would go in in April. And then he would be there along toward the end of April through May, and then the kids and I would go in in June when school was out. And then later, school started getting out the end of, about the middle of May I should say.

But Steve by then was in Crane, which did not get out until the first of June. So see I couldn't go in. Then I always had to come out about the middle of August to get the kids in school. Because when Rich went to Diamond, we started school about the second or third week in August, which was great. Because that way we got out early. And the kids were out of school for branding and all that type of thing. And ---

BARBARA: So where did you stay then during the school year?

HELEN: Diamond, in Diamond. I was in Diamond. Because see Rich had --- when we first came Steve was in the 8th grade, and Rich was in the 4th grade. And 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th, okay see Rich was in the 4th grade. And then Steve went to Crane then the next year, after we had been here a year.

BARBARA: Did he board there?

HELEN: Yes, yes. I had eight years of driving to Crane High School every weekend, going and coming so to speak. Attending all the functions. And I don't like football, you

might as well put that in big letters, you know. But I never missed a football game. I could sure visit.

BARBARA: You're a good mom.

HELEN: I could visit. (Laughter) Somebody say, "Hey, look at your son. He just made a touchdown." I'd go, huh?

DOROTHEA: That's kind of like me, I don't understand football. Now I understand all the rest of the games, but I don't understand football.

HELEN: I like basketball, and I like baseball. But football ---

DOROTHEA: My son was in football until he got knee injuries, then he had to drop out. But I went to all the games.

HELEN: Well I'm back at football games in Burns, when my grandson comes. And he was here this last fall, that's the first football game I'd gone to since the kids were out of school.

DOROTHEA: And where does he live now?

HELEN: The grandson? Ontario.

DOROTHEA: Ontario.

HELEN: Steve and them live over there.

BARBARA: And where do your sons live?

HELEN: Steven lives in Ontario. He went over there and went to Treasure Valley as soon as he got out of high school. And the second year he got married. So he never came home again. Three years later I got Debbie with all the red hair.

DOROTHEA: And Rich still lives in the Diamond area?

HELEN: He's --- Rich, well Rich when he was first married he lived up at Prairie City. Then they moved down here, and then they separated. And then after he and Frances

were married then they moved to Diamond. He got a job with the county; he went to work for the county. And he has been there ever since.

DOROTHEA: Does he still do his summer haying?

HELEN: Yes, he's got a bailer; I guess it is two bailers now. And he bails hay in the summertime. And he used to bail for more people. But I think mostly now Dwight Hammond, because he's got three circles now of alfalfa. So that is going to keep him pretty busy.

DOROTHEA: And Fran that he married is Fran Sword?

HELEN: Yes. And her people are from out around Drewsey. Her mother still lives there, and her brother.

DOROTHEA: And her parents ---

HELEN: Her ... sister Darlene here in town.

DOROTHEA: And her parents were Joel and Elfreda Sword.

HELEN: Right.

DOROTHEA: What does she do out on the ranch? Is she a typical ranch wife?

HELEN: Well no, they live at the county yards, is where they live. There are two mobile homes there. Ross Otley lives in one, and Rich lives in the other. And it's just a small acreage --- well it isn't an acreage I guess. I don't know how much ground is in the things. There isn't too much. The county had bought it from Hap Smith, when they left and went to the valley. And --- because they decided that the refuge didn't want the county yards down on the refuge anymore. This is when people decided they didn't want to see any of the old houses on the refuge anymore, and I think that's a sad thing.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's the reason they moved those up there. I didn't realize that.

HELEN: These people that complain that said we want to see it like it was before. Well

before was many, many, many years ago.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HELEN: You'd have to go; well you would have buildings and things when Pete French was there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HELEN: Different places. The old Morgan house, and we used to have extension in the old Morgan house. And then they decided all that stuff had to come down. You couldn't have nothing. And the old corrals where we used to, we called them Matt Davies corrals, those had to be taken out because the tourists couldn't stand to see those. Now to me, those type of things are Eastern Oregon.

BARBARA: It goes along with the country.

HELEN: Yeah, that's Eastern Oregon to me. My first trip over into ---

DOROTHEA: That's history.

HELEN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: That's what we call history. Uh huh.

HELEN: And it makes me sad to see all those things gone. But, you know, some of these people. I always feel like they should stay home if they don't like the looks of us. (Laughter) We can get along just fine without them.

BARBARA: We are what we are.

DOROTHEA: Now you said you were going --- getting ready to go up on the mountain. Is this where Glen is now?

HELEN: Yes.

DOROTHEA: And ---

HELEN: He's up at the Riddle Ranch. And the Riddle Ranch now is owned by the BLM.

There has been a little misunderstanding that people thought that the BLM paid for the land in the Big Indian. They didn't. Rex and the BLM exchanged ground in the Big Indian, but the BLM bought the Riddle Ranch. They bought it. I don't remember just what the price is, but it doesn't really matter. But it was purchased.

DOROTHEA: And so you ---

HELEN: Somebody else, some way or other, I don't know that they couldn't just exactly buy it or something. There had, there is an in between thing there, and I can't tell you what that is. I read it, but --- anyway, they bought the Riddle. See Rex and them bought the Riddle Ranch from Fred Riddle, because the others were dead by the time --- And they got it in 1952.

DOROTHEA: The BLM did?

HELEN: No, Rex.

DOROTHEA: Rex Clemens.

HELEN: Rex bought it in 1952 from Fred Riddle. And the BLM bought it from Rex's estate in 1986.

We knew some of this country before we ever came here. Glen, his first trip over was in 1941, and he and some friends come hunting, just before he went into the service. Because, well he was eligible, you know what I mean, age wise. He was going to have to go into the service, even though Pearl Harbor had not happened yet in '41. Because that was December he came hunting. And you know, they were taking in, they were preparing back --- In fact we had a lot of kids that as they graduated in 1939 from Salem Senior High School, that was joining the English Army and things, fighters, airplanes, type things, clear back then. Had people joining, officers and that type of thing.

And he came hunting. Well then he didn't come again until after he was home

from the service. And that was about in 1940

--- I'm going to say '46. Because the war was over in '45, and he stayed in occupation troops, and he was in the medics. And they stayed and ran these; I guess you would say these clinic type things for the German population, the people. And they would treat all these people when they would come in for stomachaches, headaches, or whatever they thought was wrong. (Laughter) And then he came back. And he came hunting in, must have been '50. Yeah, because Rich and I came in either '52 or '53. Rich was three and a half his first trip up the mountain I think. And then the next year he was four and a half, or something like that. I could have that a little --- I could be a year later than what I should be. Because we got a '52 car, and I think then we came hunting the next year. But it could have been in '52. But Rich was about, either two and a half or three and a half his first time a horse back up on the other side of the mountain to where we hunted. They call it Public Waters; we always called it the Government Watering Hole, troughs really. Because they ran the water in the troughs. And we came two years. And then was after, shortly after that then that we moved over here. Because we came in '59.

DOROTHEA: Now did you have to ride horses up to the mountain at that time? Or could you get up ---

HELEN: When we moved in?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HELEN: No, we came in that ---

SIDE B

HELEN: Okay, our first trip into the mountain was really quite an experience. The ranch had an Army Dodge power wagon. And you know, you don't travel too fast in one of

those, but it's sure good for climbing up over the rocks. (Laughter) Well our first night, and our first experience on Steens Mountain was, that by the time that we had moved up here --- we stored everything in Frenchglen at a cabin they had there, and we slept in this cabin. So we proceeded to come up to the Riddle Ranch. Rich and Glen and I came in the power wagon. And Russell Wilson, who was manager for Rex, and Steve came up river herding our milk cow. And we'd get in there --- well we were six hours from Frenchglen to the Riddle house. We had all --- with all our things and whatever, and things for the ranch. We had a forestry gate, which is a railroad iron, you know, track. And those things are pretty heavy. And with the stuff to also cement this thing in. So we went I think, ought miles an hour all the way in, we had to. We were either going up on a creek bed that was dry by that time, because see this is about the middle of June by the time we moved up. Because the kids didn't get out of school until after the first part of June, because we stayed in the valley. Steve had an excellent trumpet teacher, and it was right in his second year of trumpet. And no way would I take him out of that trumpet music, and that teacher. So we head in, and it is getting darker and darker, and when we get there it's after dark. When we first came in it was either, as I said, up a creek bed where the run-off had been, or we were crossing one. Or otherwise we was just out through the sagebrush. You knew where to go, and that was the way you went. We went past the old Bald Head Station; we also went between the shearing, Kueny shearing corrals, and the old Weaver house. And then we wandered off down around, and we finally got to the top of the hill where you go into the river. And that was where the old Bradeen crossing was. And his, and some range --- the post office and that in the summertime. And that was our crossing. But these rocks, the first time I drove the power wagon back out of that thing, I don't know how come I had to go to town or had to go to



the ranch or some-thing, I killed that motor three times thumping up over those rocks. Because you know, as you thud, then they kill the motor. And so anyway, it was quite a deal going up and down that.

So one time we were crawling up out of that river, and I said to Glen, you know inside that cab it made a terrible grinding sound, but outside I don't think it sounded that bad. But we were in it, and I said, "I wonder what the Japanese thought when they heard these darn vehicles climbing up over the terrain in their country, that nobody could go up over. And yet these vehicles can climb up it."

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HELEN: And Glen says, "They probably were a little surprised." They thought they had it made, there is no way the Americans could get in there, and Dodge come up with this Dodge power wagon. And you can go anyplace in one of those old Dodge power wagons. I don't care how big the rocks are, you can get over them.

DOROTHEA: They're awful rough, but boy you can go.

HELEN: Well I never knew that it had air in the tires, till we blew one, one day. I thought it was a solid tire. I actually did. I never dreamed it had air. And then we blew one, so then I thought, gee, those aren't solid tires after all. (Laughter) They sure felt it though. It wasn't the easiest riding thing though.

DOROTHEA: Well did ---

HELEN: Then we got there see, and we get to unloading and getting things straightened up, and what have you. And I said, "Well where is the box with the bedding?" "Oh, it was in Frenchglen." And Stella and Russell happened to have a wool army blanket up there. And Glen and I slept in our clothes and put that wool blanket over us. And Glen had been there previously, because he came up in November, it was the 3rd of November 1958,

and went to work. Rex said, "I want you to come and see if you like it before you move your family." And so there was these two army mummy bags as they called them, sleeping bags, and the boys had those to sleep in. So they were all right, but Glen and I wasn't. So Glen went out the next day and brought the bedding back in.

BARBARA: Oh, gosh.

HELEN: And in the spring, it always took us four hours to go out from the house to Frenchglen. Now that's how slow you went. Then after the snowdrifts were gone up there above Vietie Camp and that, Vietie Pruitts, why we could make Frenchglen in two hours. So we always waited for the day that was over with, we could go out over the top. And that wasn't bad. And you had a road too, because this other I would never call a road whatsoever. You can see our tracks where we went, where the old road did go if you looked, and know where to look. Because they are still there.

DOROTHEA: Still today?

HELEN: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: What kind of road --- weather did you have in June? Was it still pretty deep snow?

HELEN: No, we never had snow by the time we got in there, never. The snow never would get as deep. It didn't lay on down in there where they built. You would have the snow drifts like up by Bald Head Station, and you couldn't get through those until they had melted. Because you didn't bring anything in, because it was all dirt, you know, there was no road whatsoever.

BARBARA: So you stayed up on the mountain from June until the time it was, so the kids could stay in school. And then did your husband stay up there?

HELEN: Yes, he stayed there.

BARBARA: When did he come back down off the mountain?

HELEN: Well they would come back after they had gathered the cattle, and get them. Now we would be in there on weekends, and that type of thing.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

HELEN: We could go back in. And then after the BLM put their road in, boy it was a snap then to go in. Because we had station wagons at that time. And I could always get them in.

BARBARA: So it was what, October or so before he would be down off the mountain?

HELEN: Yeah, it would be after hunting. We always had to stay there for hunting. And as soon as that was over with, why then he would move back to Diamond, or down to Frenchglen. They had a little cabin there in, out in the field, Juniper Field where we were at. And he would stay in that cabin until they got things worked, the cattle worked. And you would do a lot of your shipping see was done from over there. Rex, and I don't remember just when it was he quit utilizing the refuge. Because he got enough ground and things out there in the Catflows that he could take his cattle out that way. And then ---

DOROTHEA: Now when you, you weren't strictly a city girl, but when you moved into these places, what kind of plumbing and facilities did you find?

HELEN: Well when we went to the mountain it was the same thing as what I was born with, outside. (Laughter) But we didn't have running water in the house. I do have running water up on the mountain if somebody pumps the water up. We have a five hundred gallon holding tank. And I go through that pretty fast. Glen said he never knew one person could use so much water in their life, as what I can use.

DOROTHEA: He hasn't seen me. That's what my husband says too.

BARBARA: Well what did your day consist of, when you were up on the mountain?

HELEN: Well, when the boys were around --- I'm not, as Rich says, Mom your not born to the saddle. And I'm really not. I'm not a rider, even though I came again from people who were horse people, and rode horses and everything. But it's just --- I took after the Lawrence's, and they are not, they are loggers. I can relate to logging much easier than I can some of this other. But, so I never rode. The most I really ever really rode was when Rich and I would go and take picture of the cabins up in the Little Blitzen, and up in the Big Indian, and the Little Indian. And then we went over, Glen had to come and help with the haying one-year, so Rich and I went over and stayed two nights with Mrs. Kueny, Mary Kueny. And we were all over the country there in two days, and all I did was take pictures of the cabins. And I got Warren McLeans and this Joe Huffs, and Riley Huffs. And I have a picture of what they call Shangri-La where the old Starbuck homestead was. I have those cabins. I have George Smyth's cabin that was on Ankle Creek.

So that was my interest, along with flowers. Don't ask me how many flower books I have. Glen wouldn't like to hear. But I have enjoyed the flowers. I said, people said, "Well what do you do?" I said, "I know almost every flower on this mountain." And I said, "God put them here, and I don't have to raise them." And you could count on two; about two weeks you have a rotation of something else. So I was very busy looking at flowers, and enjoying them, and learning what each one was. Because they are much different than the flowers I grew up with in the Willamette Valley. Such as our wild current that smells yummy. Our trillions in the spring, and lady slippers, which also smell yummy.

DOROTHEA: They have those up here?

HELEN: No, I mean in the ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, you had those in the valley.

HELEN: As I say, I had those type of things in the Willamette Valley.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HELEN: And up here it was a complete different flower. And yet I have been amazed that once in awhile you will come up with something that is the same variety, but maybe a little different too. It's amazing. But they have so many species of flowers on that mountain, it's --- I, it's bugged me that somebody has never really studied those flowers and done a flower book. Because I have a number of flower books, and there will be one flower from the mountain, and only in one book will you find that flower. And yet you have all of them up on that mountain out of these different flower books. And I have yet to find a flower book that lists every flower that we have. There is just not one published. And I'd like to see somebody, sometime get in and do --- but you have to start in March, and the wild peony blooms in March. Took me a long time before I ever got up there at the right time to take a picture of wild peony.

DOROTHEA: Do you have pictures of all these?

HELEN: I have quite a few. I'm not, I wished that I could of had a camera that really was adapted for taking --- in other words I didn't have the right lens and that type of thing.

DOROTHEA: Kind of like mine. Uh huh.

HELEN: So my flower pictures aren't the greatest, but they aren't the worst either.

DOROTHEA: So some of your interests, to keep you busy, were taking pictures.

HELEN: Taking pictures, I've got scads of pictures.

DOROTHEA: Mine is cookbooks, and cooking.

HELEN: I don't cook any more than I have to. I'm not an indoor person, and my house certainly shows it. And I don't really care. If you want to come and see me, you come and see me.

BARBARA: Not your house.

HELEN: Don't you worry about the house? But I'll take; of course I won't take you out and show you my yard now, because I've been back on the mountain for three years. But I had it really pretty nice down on South Fir when we were first there. And it's, right now I'm running two yards. Because I never particularly, I raised, well I had some beautiful glads one year up on the mountain. Oh, they were pretty. And I've, well Rich and I used to always kind of have a garden. There is two spaces out in front of the house as you walk in. And we've raised different things in it. And now they have progressed to where they've got a string bean that I can grow on the mountain, and it produces real well. Because I brought string beans down last year and gave away, from just the few that I had there in front of the house.

BARBARA: Goodness sakes.

HELEN: And Rich and I always had something. But we didn't have what I can do now, because we have Early Girl tomatoes, which we didn't have when Rich was small and up there. And I have, I raise my own plants. I have Fantastic, and I have got three Early Girls, and three of the other. I raise my own plants. Now I've had peppers up there. I've got --- when I left I had some cucumbers. I had started the cucumber seed before I went to Idaho the last of April. And that, those two plants have, they should be about maybe four or five inches long maybe now, I'm hoping when I go back in. Because they grow fast, and it's Sweet Success. And they are a super cucumber. And they are self-pollinating, see.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's ---

HELEN: So you don't have to worry about them.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HELEN: And one year when I went up, I had to set my tomato plants out, it was the first

of June. And it started to snow about three or four days later, and they were covered for three days, covered with snow. But I had covered them, and had stakes and things in there so that nothing touched them. And three days later, after the snow was gone, I took off those covers and there the plants are just as pretty as can be.

BARBARA: All nice and insulated.

HELEN: Yeah. And they stayed real nice under that. So this year, I went in later than I did the year before. In fact everything was planted a week later. And I was involved with other things and I just couldn't go. And so I started covering at night even. I got the wire for fencing type of thing; you know, about so high, a foot or so. And I put those in different stages along there, and then we started covering. Well then that kept the heat in from the day, and then the seeds germinated much quicker. And we have covered them several times, even since. If it acts like it's going to be a cool night, we go out and cover them, just put some ---

I had my sister-in-law get old bedspreads at the yard sales, and you get them for a dollar a piece in the valley. And she gets them for me and saves them. And they are the best thing to cover with in the garden you can get. Because they go over and hang down. And so my Swiss chard and beets were doing real good when I left. And ---

BARBARA: So you pretty much grow all the vegetables that you need up there.

HELEN: Yeah, you can.

DOROTHEA: You're talking about Steens Mountain, and talking about a garden, now I wouldn't have thought that was possible.

HELEN: Well the old Riddle boys always had a garden up there. And one year Rex got the hot idea, and I got slides of those, the workers all leaning on their hoe handles and what not, and their shovel handles. He had a garden put in. But it was a little hard for him

to irrigate it. Where we irrigate see, from the water pool coming down from the pressure, or else when Glen runs the pump. Why then that way we have water to irrigate with, it makes it real handy.

BARBARA: While you're doing your garden, and you're doing your flower things and taking pictures, and what does your husband do then during the day?

HELEN: Well, that's when he's out riding and that type of thing. Might be putting out salt, or checking, or checking the cattle or something like that. And there is always something, mending some fence. Because you always get so much snow break on the mountain.

DOROTHEA: And how about animal break? Do you get a lot of --- do you have elk problems?

HELEN: So far we haven't. They have been up by what we call our horse pasture area, gate. And Glen has seen tracks there, but we've never had any tracks --- and the deer have never bothered. The one thing, we have had coon once in awhile. We've had them up there. And we've also had a lot of porcupines. But this one year, I thought, somebody had been up fishing, and I had --- inside, so I thought well now they say that makes good fertilizer. So I went out and buried it by those cucumbers I had planted. Next morning I gave the dog heck. Well Glen said, "It wasn't the dog, it was something else." And so we figured it must have been the coon came in and could smell that, and that was the end of that bunch of cucumbers. Fertilizer didn't stand there, and when they got dug down they didn't find anything. So I never did that again.

I bury all my peelings. I used to do it on the mountain when I knew I would be going back. Now what I do is I save all my peelings and I snip them up so they're small, because then they will deteriorate quicker in the ground. And --- but the last time when I was going in there steady, I had exactly five weeds that I had pulled out of my garden out



of both sides of the house, five. Because I was utilizing my peelings, and I didn't have to use fertilizer.

BARBARA: That's great.

HELEN: So it lets you know that your peelings, if you put them down one of those, what do you call that thing ---

DOROTHEA: In the sink?

HELEN: Yeah, garbage disposal.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HELEN: And when you put those peelings down the garbage disposal, you're losing it. Because you can take them out and bury them, and in that short space, as I would get down to the end of burying in between my rows see, through the summer, the first was already gone. You would never know that you had ever put anything in that area. Because they deteriorate in at least two weeks. They're completely gone; you'd never know you had a peeling in there.

BARBARA: Is that right? I'll have to try that.

HELEN: Oh boy. So what do I do now, I save all my peelings, I don't put any back in the ground up there. Because I save them to bring down and utilize in my own yard. And I freeze them if I'm not coming soon enough. And they're frozen; put them up in the freezer part of the refrigerator. We have a propane refrigerator. We used to have two, but one quit us. And then we have a small apartment like size propane stove. We cook on it when it's warm, and don't have to heat up the wood stove. I use it in the morning.

DOROTHEA: Up in there, the wood stoves feel good in the morning, and late in the evenings. But it sure feels good to have that gas stove to cook in the, during the day meals.

HELEN: Oh, you bet. Well sometimes, here while back, and I've noticed too a lot of times that when they'll say it's ninety something in Burns, we've also had ninety degrees. We've been hot. Except our nights cool off better. But here you can't cool off because you have the houses, you have ---

BARBARA: All the cement.

HELEN: --- pavements. Yeah, and that holds it. And that's what makes it pretty miserable.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

HELEN: And so to me, it's been a very good life. I really enjoyed the mountain.

DOROTHEA: Well then after you come down off of the mountain now, are you retired so that you don't have the winters work? Or what does Glen do during the winter?

HELEN: Well on the average since he has been retired, there is always somebody that needs something. Del Clemens wants him to help him to do something. And then somebody else wants him to help them do something. And one year Larry Otley had a horse fall with him in January, so Glen was out there feeding for Allen and them. And there is always somebody needing something.

BARBARA: So when did he officially, quote, retire?

HELEN: He was supposed to retired in 1982. He was 65 that fall. And I told everybody, and see it won't be too long we'll be here ten years. And I said, "Maybe he has put three months in, in all this time of being at home." More than that really. But he's been gone most of the time. Then see he's helped Dick Raney up at Roaring Springs. And then when Dick went out here to this place out there by Riley, for that lady, Glen was out there and spent I don't know how much time he helped Dick out there.

BARBARA: So how long have you had a house in town now?

HELEN: Well it's Rich's. We lived in it for about four years. And then we moved in, Cal Giesler left, and it was a much bigger house. I have an upstairs. And so I'm, I have a lot of things, books, and all this stuff that I --- my genealogy and ---

BARBARA: So you kind of winter in town as Glen does these odd jobs helping different people.

HELEN: Yeah.

BARBARA: And then comes June, you go back up on the mountain again.

HELEN: Well see, the three years Kap and Cathy were up on the mountain, why Glen was off helping Dick Raney for one thing. He spent a lot of time at Roaring Springs helping Dick. Glen knew the country for one thing, and he knew where to go if he found a bull or something, which way to go back to the ranch with it, you know, the shortest route and all that type of thing. And then he was off out, like I say, he stayed out here at this other place quite a bit of the time, while Dick was out at Riley.

DOROTHEA: This is what I understand, is the best part of retiring, you know. You can do what you please.

HELEN: You work more.

DOROTHEA: You work harder. But it does keep you still on your feet, and going.

HELEN: Right, it's better off. Every time, Marvin Jess he's thinking of retiring, and I said, "Marvin, don't retire." I said, "You're going to find yourself trying to find something to do." And you'll be doing something I said, because Marvin is not a person to sit. Marvin has worked and worked, and always worked. I said, "You better just keep right on working." Well you know, you keep thinking it's going be great to not have to get up. But you know your habits are formed. And I still get up at six o'clock in the morning. And my neighbors think I'm crazy. But if that's your habit, that's your habit. So you stay with it, you might

just as well.

BARBARA: Whatever suits you.

HELEN: Right. And so, and there is always somebody wanting something. Just like you get roped into this and that.

Well I've always, when I was in the valley, I was very involved with home extension. And I came up here, and it wasn't long until I was involved again. And I was not involved with 4-H until we came to this country. Because Steve was in a horse group down there, and he also had a garden, because he was the oldest, you know. Rich wasn't old enough yet. So my 4-H work, I had Cub Scouts in the valley. I was a den mother. And I truly enjoyed that. The kids were so cute, you know, when they're little anyway. And I had a bunch of real nice little kids.

And anyway, we come up here then, and I think it was about the third year, anyway I put in twenty-seven years with 4-H now. And I got involved with it through the extension. I had served on the State Board for 4-H, which met twice a year at Salem. I was also on the 4-H International Board, which was led by Lois Redmond. And I had three --- two years with that. And then I was on the State Board for the home extension, and that was the Associated Country Women of the World. I had a three-year term that went with that. Marge Griffin was our state president at the time. And there is always some, some activity. Then ---

DOROTHEA: You're still involved with the 4-H I understand.

HELEN: Yes, yes.

DOROTHEA: Did you have a class of leather crafts?

HELEN: At Diamond I had fourteen years of leather craft. I also had sewing, and I had the Winn girls at that time. Donna Tackman's two daughters, and Frances Mary, and

Janie Jenkins were in my sewing. And then later I had knitting and crocheting, and then I came to town and --- oh, before I got to town I had three years of leather craft with, out here at the reservation, with the kids there. And that was when everything was gung ho; you had to do something for the Indians. Well nobody around here would do anything, and Joe Meyers and them were screaming at the other end because I was on the State Board at that time too. So I decided, well I guess I can do it. So I went out and made a number of friends there, Minerva Soucie, and Charlotte Teeman, who is Charlotte Snap now, and a number of the others. Jim St. Martin and Wendy his wife, I always enjoyed them. And of course everybody is amazed when I tell them that I knew Cecil Dick and Diana before they ever had Vanessa. (Laughter) So I said, we've been friends for a long time. And Diana works for the BLM.

BARBARA: She is working out at the BLM. She is a nice lady.

HELEN: Every once in awhile I dash in and talk to her. And we like Cecil and them just real well. He's a nice person, just really is. He is a sports person. You know he is interested in ball.

BARBARA: He's always at the ball games at the high school. I see him there all the time.

HELEN: Well, and he always played on the town teams, or a reservation team or something. But he was involved with sports. He went to school; I think it was at Anadarko, in Oklahoma, before. And then he's also attended school up here at Forest Grove, taking college --- I think he put one full year in, if I'm not mistaken. And he's had other classes. And then his brother Kenny has been out here in the offices of the reservation for a number of years. Cec was here first, and then Kenny came. And then I came to town and I was involved with Betty Otley in knitting. And then from that, why I have always liked to grow things. And they didn't have a horticulture club, so I said, "Hey

I'll do horticulture. See if you can find somebody." So I've done horticulture, and what's this, fifth or sixth year anyway for horticulture.

DOROTHEA: Do you have a 4-H group, you mean?

HELEN: Yeah. We started out with six, and the one little boy later in the spring, his mother went to work, so he had to quit because he had to go home from school and do chores. And he's in the goat club. And then I had two little girls, and they got so they weren't showing up for the meetings, so that was it. And I had Melissa Cain and she felt that she had too much with her high school things and that, so then she dropped out. But I've had the Knudsen's; I started out with Tom Knudsen first year with horticulture. And then the next year his brother Jeff joined. And I can't remember whether if I had Jeff one or two years. Then Jeff dropped out to play football and all that type of thing. You have a rough time with sports in town kids.

BARBARA: Once they get into junior high and high school, they are pretty well involved with their school activities.

HELEN: Right, their time is --- right. And then Brittany, I've had her two years now, and she is a Knudsen. So Tom has stayed through all the time.

DOROTHEA: Is Tom the oldest?

HELEN: No, Jeff.

DOROTHEA: Jeff is the oldest.

HELEN: Jeff is the oldest boy, but Tom is the one that wanted horticulture. He likes growing things. And then I was down to Corvallis, at the many meetings that you go to, and they were talking to us of including our kids, of utilizing another club with our main project. Okay, we could have photography with gardening, with horticulture. We can also have food preservation with horticulture. So the kids this year, it's been real bad, and I

don't know, things just haven't been like they have been for the kids. Tom doesn't have the garden this year that he'd had before. Now Brittany got kind of a slow start and her, she likes container planting, because she doesn't have to weed. (Laughter) And she's cute --- I really enjoy her. And so last year was our first time then to add food preservation, which is drying the vegetables and fruits, and making your leathers or canning. All that is considered. So this year I think the kids are going to have more in food preservation than what they will have in our horticulture part, even though we have done things in it as far as that goes. And so far the kids have always, have done something, and taken it to the nursing home each Christmas. But, decoration of some kind, done something. And that's about their main project.

We got the lilies from the Catholic Church a year ago. This last year we didn't get them. I don't know what they did with them. And anyway I didn't get a hold of them, but we planted them out there as you go into the cemetery. Along in October, here's Easter lilies blooming. Everybody thought, where did the Easter lilies come from? Well our 4-H kids had planted the ones we had gotten from the church.

BARBARA: That's nice.

HELEN: I don't know what they've done this year, you know, whether anybody's paid any attention much to that area or not.

DOROTHEA: I saw somebody working out there; oh it's been a couple months ago. I don't know whether they were planting flowers or what they were doing.

HELEN: Or what they were doing. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: But --- well you've led an active and busy life since you have come to Harney County. So you can't say you're not a Harney Countian.

HELEN: Well, I brought a bunch of pictures up to put in our albums thirty years ago;

they've never been put in. I've never had the time! They are still in boxes. And I think that's a good place for them.

Then --- well first I joined the Historical Society before I came to town, when Blanche McWilliams was still living. And of course she always liked to have somebody to drive to town for her. So she came, so I would come with her all the time. Then I --- let's see, Mary Pengelly was going off of the Advisory Board, and Arlie Oster said, "Would you be on the Advisory Board?" And I said, "Oh, I guess." And so I've been on that ever since. And on, Dorothy George and I are both up for election again, our terms are up. And so I don't know, I'll find out in October whether I'm on it again or not. But I've had the membership chairman ever since I went on the board, just about. And ---

DOROTHEA: Well that's something that Barbara and I should talk to you about. We've been interested in getting involved with the Historical Society to kind of learn more about Harney County. And ---

HELEN: That's a good way to do it.

DOROTHEA: So, but it seems like we're always busy when these things come up.

HELEN: Something. Before I came to town when Hap Smith and Ada moved back to the valley, she was on, and she was a member of the Advisory Board of the Counseling and Guidance. At that time they called it the Mental Health. And I was on it when we got the thing changed to Counseling and Guidance because people don't look at it quite so harshly or something. It isn't quite as scary I guess, I don't know what you would, how you would term it. But I've been on that now twelve, thirteen years. I think it was '77 she said that they came. I can't remember. I saw her at the Pioneer Days, and I asked her when they had left. And it seems to me like she said '77, but I could be wrong on that.

DOROTHEA: I think it was after her son died.



HELEN: That they went to the valley, could be. I don't remember.

DOROTHEA: They were still here when Don died I think.

HELEN: Well then, I don't know when he died. I don't remember that.

DOROTHEA: That was in the '70's, I'm sure.

HELEN: But, so I've never gotten off of that. When I moved to town why Gretchen L'Hommedieu says, "Just keep coming." (Laughter) So I just kept coming. So I've been on that, and I've served as their chairman. I was supposed to had a year, and ended up two years. The way they twisted it around, why ---

DOROTHEA: Are you a Cowbelle?

HELEN: Pardon, no I never --- no, I never joined that, never did. DOROTHEA: What other organizations do you belong to?

HELEN: What else do I go to? I don't know, there's not too much left.

DOROTHEA: Well I know you were busy with the centennial planning, and did you work on the centennial book some?

HELEN: Yes, I did all the churches for the centennial book. And that was a very time consuming --- I would run three at a time. Because when you go to talk to somebody, and you ask for information, yes, I'll get it. So you might just as well have two more going at the same time, looking for things, while you're still looking for things. And so I always did three at a time. As I finished, would finish one, then I would add in another one. So I had three going continuously. Well then, lo and behold we go to the mountain, so I told Pauline, I said, "There is seven more to be done." And I said, "I just can't do them by going to the mountain, because I don't have the time." So when I come off of the mountain, I told her to get someone else. And when I come off she said, "Would you do those other seven?" So you know, two months I had the others done, except for one.

There was only one that I didn't get, and that was the Jehovah Witness. And they, twice I had it set up to go and talk to them. And I've been in all the buildings except the old First Methodist Church. Because --- so I can say I've been in all these others. Because most of them have changed hands and still the church for another group. And so I've been in all these church buildings that we've got, even that very first one that's down there that, is it Bible Baptist has. And that was an old building, an old, old one. Because these others were modern, more or less up-to-date. And now your Nazarene had the building first. Then the Seventh Adventist got it, and then this other group got it, the Bible Baptist. So it's had three.

DOROTHEA: Well where did the Seventh Day Adventists go?

HELEN: They went into the, when they left that church, they bought the Nazarene Church which they call the pink stone, which is not a pink stone. Because the lady from the Seventh Day Adventist and I went up, and we went around to the back and that was painted.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's down by Gerald Frost.

HELEN: Pardon.

DOROTHEA: That's the one down by Gerald Frost.

HELEN: That's the old wooden one, that's the old, old church, the old Nazarene. And then the Adventists had it, and then the Nazarene built this other rock building up here that's --- where am I at, down that way.

BARBARA: Down from the courthouse isn't it, on that street?

DOROTHEA: Oh, oh, that's right.

HELEN: Yeah, and it's ... that is repainted. The stuff is painted. It isn't a pink stone. Because you can see where it's washed off or been chipped, and it's, we found out it's

painted. But they call it the old pink church nevertheless. And they did some remodeling, and they really have a nice church there, just real nice. And that's what I say, I've been in all of them, I know they've pointed out where they've remodeled or whatever. And so I've --- except, I'll take it back, of course I've been in the building but not as a church, was where the 4-C's is. And the Baptist group when they split, see I was in that. But I wasn't there as, doing it as a church person. I was out seeing somebody about something.

And so --- now I've got a new project, as you probably all know. I was, I don't know what I was --- had stopped out at the BLM office about one day, something, and Don Cain was wanting to know something. Anyway we were sitting there and we were visiting, and he said, "You know we need a history on the Riddle Ranch." And so he said, "What could you come up with?" And I said, "I don't know, we can talk to people." Of course there hasn't been, see Rex was the second owner. And it's only, and we've been there so long that there is not too many around that was really --- now you've got the Critchlows, and Roy lives up, and he was just a young boy see, when they came here. And his folks of course had it leased at one time. Or not his folks, I guess it was his brother, Howard. So I said, "Well there is Roy Critchlow." And I said, "Mary Fine and them had lived in the country, and Cliff." And then Faulhabers had come up when we were back in one of these --- well not last year, the year before. First year back on the mountain Ben Faulhaber and his family came up. And he said, "I built the barn down there in 1935." And he said he had some pictures, I don't know, we were talking, well they had some pictures. So I look at these pictures, and I tell Don about it. And he said, "Well we've got somebody that can copy those, and this is Mark Armstrong." So I went to the people and still, and then I said, "Would you mind this fellow can bring his camera, and he has a frame that he sits it on, and let him copy these pictures because they want to work up a

little history on the Riddle Ranch." So sure, well from that we went up to Mary, well we went to Roy Critchlow's at --- what's the place beyond Dayville? Mitchell.

DOROTHEA: Mitchell.

HELEN: We went to Mitchell, and we copied pictures at Roy Critchlows. And then we came back and stayed all night at Dayville at Cliff and Mary's. And we copied pictures there the next day, and it has just mushroomed of people saying, hey, we've got some old pictures. And we have --- and then in the process of all this, Don said one day, he said, "You know it would be nice to just have a history of our area." Well you know that goes up there, which is out of my line. But it also goes down to the border of Nevada. And I said, "I can help you with anything from the South End." So that's what we've been doing, we've been to McDades. And then we thought well, I don't know, I said something to Teresa Clemens about doing this. Oh, she says, our old barn out there is over a hundred years old, and said it was put together with pegs, the original part. I can get on the phone quick enough, because Mark is a person that is into, his specialty is black and white, and he just loves to do black and white. And I said, "Hey, there is the Clemens' barn out there that was put together with pegs, part of it." And you know, we've been so busy we've never been out to do that barn yet. (Laughter)

But anyway, we went through Bessie's albums, and we got some of the train wreck, we've got --- then he got the hot idea of --- he was interested in sawmills. So low and behold here is this Clay Clemens, I guess it's Clay, that had the sawmill, and so they got pictures of that. And then I said something, we were going to the valley to, Glen and I, I believe I was going to a wedding; it must have been in April. Our extension agent, Barbara Eichner, do you remember her?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HELEN: Well, I went to her wedding at Corvallis in April. And she married a man from Australia, just a real personable person. And you know, I decided we all ought to go to Alaska, because it is so nice. These people come back looking years younger. Joe Mazzoni for one, and Barbara Eichner, I don't think she put a year on her up there. She -- you know, it went the other way, she looked so youthful at her wedding, you wouldn't believe it. And to me, the first time I saw Joe when he came back, I said, "Joe, you look ten years younger." So I think Alaska sure has something.

BARBARA: Not so stressful, maybe up there.

HELEN: Something anyway, whatever it is, the climate and every-thing.

BARBARA: That's good.

HELEN: Because their skin and everything, you know, it doesn't look --- it's good.

DOROTHEA: Well Helen, our tape is coming to an end.

HELEN: Okay, good.

DOROTHEA: And you said you wanted to get out of here by four, so it's almost three-thirty, so we'd like to thank you. But we want to give you enough time to kind of give us a little interview on the video, because we'd like to stick you on a video also.

HELEN: You know, I think if you want to do that, why don't you come to the mountain?

DOROTHEA: Oh, that sounds great.

HELEN: That will give you a view of the Riddle Ranch.

DOROTHEA: That sounds great.

HELEN: I bet you'd enjoy that.

DOROTHEA: When could we do this?

HELEN: Well, we're going to have to get together on that, because Mark is planning a trip for Winona and --- see I've been to Winona Smith, who was a Smyth. And we've copied,

that's where we found the pictures of the first barn, which was an old stockade barn at the Riddle Ranch. And so we're really back in history there. We have no idea who ever took the picture, because Wanda said that when they, her first trip to the mountain was in 1928, and that stockade barn was there then. But between 1928, and 1935, it disappeared, was torn down.

DOROTHEA: But that would be a good place probably for us to do it.

HELEN: I think you would enjoy that.

DOROTHEA: We really would love it.

HELEN: Right now I'm trying to find out about the elk. Josh he's all excited over those elk that John Devine had over at --- we've got some pictures, they aren't the best in the world. But we've got pictures of the elk at the Alvord.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HELEN: A pig is in the picture with the elk, it's the ---

(End of tape)

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