

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #248 - Sides A & B

Subject: Terry and Merle Hills; With Video

Place: Hills Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: July 27, 1989

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy and we're at the home of Merle and Terry Hills in Burns, Oregon. The date is July 27th, 1989. Barbara Lofgren is with me, and she will be doing some video taping after the interview. Merle, can you tell us your name and --- Terry, can you tell us your name and where you were born and something about yourself and Harney County?

TERRY HILLS: Well, I was born in 1913, in Woodward, Oklahoma. And I was born on the ranch that, when Lindbergh made his forced landing after flying across the ocean he come back and he made his first, he made an emergency landing. And on this ranch is the ranch that I was born on.

DOROTHEA: Very interesting. Merle, where were you born, and when?

MERLE HILLS: I was born in Ellis County, Oklahoma. I can't talk very loud.

TERRY: You better ---

MERLE: And in 19 and 16, March the 20th, 19 and 16.

DOROTHEA: And you were born in Oklahoma also?

MERLE: Ellis County, Oklahoma, not too far from where he was born.

DOROTHEA: Okay Terry, why don't you tell us how you became interested in Harney County, and why you came here.

TERRY: I came to Harney County in 1917. And my uncle was a real estate broker at that time, and he wanted my mother to file on a homestead, in the vicinity up where you're at.

DOROTHEA: In the Silvies Valley area?

TERRY: Well, yeah, there. And we lived there for five years, and he didn't, he took the rent off from the land at that time, and he didn't. He was supposed to have fenced it, and he didn't fence it. And so, we decided we didn't want to take the second claim out, which would have been three years more. So that's how come there --- and I came; when I came to Burns it was the day after Halloween. And then was in the days when they had Halloween. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: What was your uncle's name?

TERRY: W. T. Lester.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And the W. T. Lester place is still up there, isn't it?

TERRY: Yes, yes. Well, this place is still up there too. It's the first place bordering Dr. White's ranch, on the north side. But it has never been fenced. And I don't know for sure, I think the BLM owns it now. But Doris White Cattle Company rents it. You could tell me more than I know.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I'm not too familiar with the country up there, so I'm not too good on describing that territory. I didn't grow up there, and I don't know too much about it. But ---

MERLE: I think they grew potatoes up there.

DOROTHEA: Did you have a garden?

TERRY: Up there?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

TERRY: No, we didn't. We had a nice spring there, and that creek run through there. But we never did have a garden up there.

MERLE: Your uncle did.

TERRY: We always carried, we had to carry it in by hand from the W. T. Lester Ranch there, and we carried it across over the hump over to the place where we were. And the house is all fallen down now. The house and barn is all fallen down.

DOROTHEA: I can't ---

TERRY: We built a house up there.

DOROTHEA: Did you?

TERRY: Yeah.

MERLE: There is a schoolhouse down ---

TERRY: See, you had to have a house, and we'd of went ahead and fenced it, we could have filed claim on it, and owned the land.

DOROTHEA: About how far away from the schoolhouse was this?

TERRY: About eight miles.

DOROTHEA: About eight miles. In which direction?

TERRY: Northeast. Mostly north.

DOROTHEA: I still can't place it. But I'll probably figure it out later.

TERRY: Yeah, yeah, well it's where the fence line of Dr. White's there, kind of that canyon like.

Where that, where his house is up there, you know. Or not his house, but his ranch.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

TERRY: Well, we were just there, our fence line was joined.

DOROTHEA: Dr. White's?

TERRY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. Because we joined Dr. White's fence line. And we have what is now known as the Hardisty fields.

TERRY: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: And so ---

TERRY: Wellm you own the Hardisty field now?

DOROTHEA: Yes, we do.

TERRY: I didn't know you owned it.

DOROTHEA: And you're on up further than that?

TERRY: What?

DOROTHEA: You were on up farther than that?

TERRY: Oh, yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

TERRY: Quite a ways farther than that.

DOROTHEA: Kind of up on the hill.

TERRY: Yeah. No, we were in; where we had our house was further in that canyon like.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

TERRY: Up there where we had our house there is a quaking asp grove, and we had it just a little ways north of the quaking asp grove.

DOROTHEA: Okay, I kind of think I know where it is now.

TERRY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

TERRY: The way you can get to it now, is go up the logging road and go down, and after you get up there just where you come to the forest line, you turn south and take the first road to the right, and come on down that way. There never was a road put in there other than just a wagon trail.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh, uh huh.

TERRY: That's how come we got the lumber from Lem Lowe, and we hauled it in by a wagon.

MERLE: ... where it was though.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us who Lem Lowe was?

TERRY: Well, he was a sawmill man. He had a sawmill up on the north, wait, no, southeast corner of King Mountain. And he, that's all he done was sawmill.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh. He had ---

TERRY: Everybody knows Lem Lowe.

DOROTHEA: He had quite a mill up there.

TERRY: Yes, he did.

DOROTHEA: I think everybody hauled lumber from there.

TERRY: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: And, in all directions, to build their houses ---

TERRY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: --- and things.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Did your ---

TERRY: See he skidded them in by horses to his mill.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Did your father come with your mother?

TERRY: No, no. My --- that's how come we happen to come out here. My mother separated when I was about two and a half years old. And I never did really, actually never did know my father. My father never did give us one dime in any way, shape, or form. And we had, my mother had to make it the hard way.

BARBARA: And what was your mother's name?

TERRY: May V. Hills.

BARBARA: What was her maiden name?

TERRY: Lester.

BARBARA: Lester, okay. And did you have any brothers and sisters?

TERRY: Yes, I had one brother, but no sisters.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And is he younger or older than you.

TERRY: He was older than I by four years, or by five years.

BARBARA: Five years, uh huh.

TERRY: Yeah.

BARBARA: And so, you came to ---

TERRY: He died when he was young.

BARBARA: I see. So, did he come to Harney County then with you?

TERRY: Yeah, he come to Harney County with us. See he was five years younger (*corrected to older) than I was --- And we come from Woodward on the train to Crane. That's all the farther the railroad come at that time, was to Crane.

BARBARA: Right, uh huh.

TERRY: And we took the stage from Crane to Burns.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And so ---

TERRY: And I can remember how it was. About the only thing, I wasn't very old, three years. But

how it was, because see Halloween then was Halloween. And they really had it tore up.

BARBARA: So, you were born in 1914 ---

TERRY: '13.

BARBARA: 1913, and then you came to Harney County in 1917.

TERRY: '17.

BARBARA: What did you, as a child; think of the train ride going across country?

TERRY: Well, I don't remember much of it.

BARBARA: Or do you remember that? You don't remember. Okay, where did you go to school then?

TERRY: My first time I went to school, the first year, was on the other side of Wright's Point. The school isn't there anymore. It's completely tore down, it's on the other side.

And I went a half of a year there. And then I went the other half, my first year, in Double O.

BARBARA: I see. This was after you had left the country up there, to come down into Burns then?

TERRY: Yeah, yeah. Well, we didn't stay up there in the winter months.

BARBARA: Right, uh huh. Okay. And so, where did you live in Burns then during the winter months while you went to school?

TERRY: Behind where the Richfield Service Station is now.

DOROTHEA: Can you describe Burns as you first remember it?

TERRY: There was kind of a funny town at that time. Like I say, it was in the days of the wooden sidewalks. There was no paved streets or anything. And they always kept the, they had signs in the middle of the street, in the middle of the intersection that said, keep to the right. And all the freighters, horses, and wagons, you know in them days, they were all the way from four to sixteen horses to a wagon that brought the freight into Burns. And most of it come in through by Nevada, or Bend.

DOROTHEA: And that's how everybody got all their supplies, through the freight.

TERRY: Yes, yes. Through the freight.

DOROTHEA: I understand that at one time there was wells on these intersections.

TERRY: There was, there was a well in each intersection. And those keep to the right things was the cap to the well.

BARBARA: That was for fires and things.

TERRY: And the fire trucks was a four-man pump.

DOROTHEA: And Burns had quite a few fires, and do you remember any of these?

TERRY: Yeah, you bet. They had some bad fires, yes. Real bad fires.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever see any of these?

TERRY: Yes, I did, a lot of them.

DOROTHEA: A lot of them. Which ones can you remember seeing?

TERRY: Well the, oh I don't really know which one I would say was the worst one. I believe where the hotel was, where the Whitaker Motel or Hotel is now. There was a two-story hotel there then, wooden hotel. It burnt down and they rebuilt it as the Whitaker Hotel.

MERLE: Whittier.

BARBARA: Whittier?

DOROTHEA: The Whittier Hotel.

TERRY: Whitaker.

BARBARA: Whittier.

MERLE: No Whittier.

BARBARA: Right up on the hill there, before you get to ---

TERRY: Yeah, yeah, right up there on the hill there, you know, right ---

BARBARA: That's Whittier.

TERRY: It's across from where the Silver Spur is now, you know.

BARBARA: Yeah, uh huh.

TERRY: Yeah. And then another bad fire, which was a lot of horses burnt up in, and that was the livery --- in other words, where they took care of these horses that would come in, on the freight horses. It caught fire, and it burnt up something like twenty-one horses.

BARBARA: Was that the Red Front or the White Front Livery Stable, do you remember?

TERRY: I don't remember.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Was it more on Main Street, or on the side street?

TERRY: It was on the east side of Main Street, one block right behind where ---

BARBARA: Probably be the Red Front then, I think.

TERRY: I wouldn't say for sure what that was.

BARBARA: I'll have to look that up.

TERRY: Yeah, yeah. I wouldn't say for sure.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And about how many stores were, like on Main Street at that time?

TERRY: About three. Two or three.

DOROTHEA: What was it like to go into a grocery store?

TERRY: Well, that's kind of hard to say. Just like, well to go down here to Fields or Frenchglen, or something like that, it would be about the same way.

DOROTHEA: So, they had all kinds of --- did they have canned goods?

TERRY: Yes, they had canned goods.

DOROTHEA: Had canned goods.

TERRY: Yeah, they had canned goods. See you didn't have any fresh vegetables. You raised your own vegetables. They didn't bring them in.

BARBARA: You had a lot of dried fruit, and things like that?

TERRY: Yeah, yeah.

BARBARA: Have your own chickens, and meat, and milk cow, and things ---

TERRY: Yeah, yeah, you had a milk cow. Pasteurized milk, they didn't know what that was in them days.

MERLE: Didn't even taste it until I was ---

TERRY: Now, where I am living now, when we moved here, we were the last house west in the city of Burns.

DOROTHEA: So, Burns has built up around you then, haven't they?

TERRY: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Tell us something about the longest street in, or I mean the longest sidewalk in Burns.

TERRY: Well, the only way I can tell you, the longest sidewalk started at Grand Street, which is west of where I am living now, the first street west of where I am living now. And it run continuously on the street, down to the river. And it was a continuous slate board sidewalk. And that was in the days when all of the sidewalks were board. And it, while we're talking about sidewalks, I might mention this. When they paved the Broadway now, they tore up the wooden sidewalks, and they filed claims so you could pan for gold, you see. For why they put these claims where they say gold, well the silvers and pennies and dollars would fall through the cracks of the sidewalk, and they couldn't get them, you see. They'd put a chewing gum on the end of a stick and go down there, and if that wouldn't pick it up, (Laughter) if that wouldn't pick it up. So, they filed all claims in fifty-foot square along, fifty-foot-long you know, with the sidewalk. And they had screens there, and they would make all the way from oh, I'll say from five dollars to fifteen dollars a day panning for--- And why I say gold, they did find some five-dollar gold pieces.

DOROTHEA: Oh. Uh huh.

TERRY: See they were panning for silver and gold. That was back in the good old days.

DOROTHEA: That's interesting, yeah. Then after they did this, how long was it before they put in the concrete sidewalks?

TERRY: The same time.

DOROTHEA: Same time.

TERRY: Same time. And that's when they were paving it, and they were paving it from sidewalk to sidewalk. And they put it in at the same time.

BARBARA: About what year was that, do you recall?

TERRY: 19 --- I'll say 1928. But, that wasn't the first; Broadway wasn't the first paved street in the city of Burns.

DOROTHEA: What was the first?

TERRY: The first paved street in the city of Burns was Madison here. And it started at Broadway, and run to Bend.

MERLE: Bend?

TERRY: Yes, it was the highway, see.

MERLE: Oh, okay.

TERRY: Yeah. Now a lot of people don't know that, you know. They don't --- it is kind of interesting. Everybody will tell you, if you go and ask anybody, they'll tell you, oh Broadway was the first paved street. But it wasn't, it wasn't the first paved street. The highway department put it in, and it wasn't like it is now. It was just barely wide enough for two cars to pass along.

DOROTHEA: And the cars did drive it, it wasn't ---

TERRY: Yeah, they drove it, yeah. They run all the way from there. It wasn't, the last section, about the last section to pave was around Glass Butte. That was about the last section they paved on it. They didn't pave it all at one time, like the streets.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember the first automobile?

TERRY: What?

DOROTHEA: Do you remember your first automobile?

TERRY: Yeah, it was a '26 Chevrolet 4-door.

DOROTHEA: And where did you get it?

TERRY: And we bought it second-hand through the Bennett Motors.

DOROTHEA: Bennett Motors.

BARBARA: Cecil Bennett.

DOROTHEA: Cecil Bennett.

TERRY: Yeah, Cecil ---

BARBARA: Chevrolet Garage.

TERRY: Cecil and Ellis. Ellis was in there, and Frank. They were all three together at that time, and Cecil pulled away.

DOROTHEA: Where did you take your car when you first got it?

TERRY: Oh, we just mostly run around town with it. We never did take out any trips with it. We was afraid we would get out and never get back. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: How did you learn --- how did you learn to drive?

TERRY: With it.

DOROTHEA: With it. You just kind of got in ---

TERRY: Yeah. Them days then, them days there you didn't need, hardly need a driver's license or anything. They didn't say anything to you. So ---

BARBARA: You just got in and practiced until you got the hang of it.

TERRY: Yeah, you just got in and take off, yeah.

BARBARA: A lot of fields to practice in, and things like that.

TERRY: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Did you have --- when you first took your driver's test, what kind of a test was it?

And what ---

TERRY: Similar to what it is now. Yeah. And I passed it pretty high. I was --- I don't know why I did, but I did. I studied up. And also, the year after that, I got my chauffeur's license.

DOROTHEA: And what all did you do as work, from the time that you can remember?

TERRY: Well, my first paycheck I got was from the Pacific Livestock. And I didn't draw from payday to payday. I let it ride for the whole entire summer, and it was two hundred and fifty dollars. Boy I thought I was rich!

BARBARA: So, you lived on the ranch then and got your room and board there then?

TERRY: Mostly, most of the time it was ranches like that. My mother went around and did cooking for the ranches.

BARBARA: This was while you were still a teenager, or something?

TERRY: Yeah, yeah. Oh, no, I was under the teenage. I was only seven years old.

BARBARA: Oh, my.

TERRY: See I was driving a rake, that's when they had horses. They don't have machinery like they do nowadays. No, like the Pacific Livestock, they had two different campsites a going. And

the campsite I was in, they had as high as forty-five mowers a going at one time. And I run a rake.

BARBARA: So, your mother cooked at the different places, and you stayed with her and you did some of the ranch chores then at that time.

TERRY: Yeah, she cooked. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I wrangled the horses in the morning, and run a rake during the daytime.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And did you work for any other company, I mean ranch other than the PLS?

TERRY: No, mostly just for them.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

TERRY: Well, we did work for a little while for the Bell A.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember what year that was? How old were you then?

TERRY: Oh, that's kind of hard to say. It was way back there. I was seven years old.

BARBARA: So that would be about 1920, in the early '20's is when you started doing this then.

TERRY: Yeah, yeah. And at that time, to show you how big of a ranch they had, you could go from border to border and never get off of their land. You could ride a horse from border to border and never get off of their land. So that was a pretty big ranch.

BARBARA: Big operation.

DOROTHEA: Well, the Bell A at one time belonged to the Pacific Livestock.

TERRY: No, no the Bell A didn't. It belonged to Hanley. Never did belong to the Pacific Livestock.

DOROTHEA: It didn't, it never. Always belonged to Bill Hanley?

TERRY: Same way with Swifts. Peter French, Swift, it never belonged to the Pacific Livestock.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Okay, so around seven years old, in the summertime you're working on the ranches. And then during the wintertime you continued to go to school?

TERRY: Yeah, and pick up what work I could through town, such as piling wood.

BARBARA: So, you went to the Burns School System then?

TERRY: Yeah, we went, my first year though ---

BARBARA: Was out by Wright's Point.

TERRY: Was out there at Wright's Point.

BARBARA: And then you came into town?

TERRY: The school isn't there anymore. The, well you can still find some of the rock foundation. It wasn't any cement, there were rock foundations where they put around underneath, that would be. And in --- out at Double O. The Double O School has changed location about three times.

BARBARA: And where was the school that you went to in Burns?

TERRY: Up where ---

BARBARA: Up where Slater is now?

TERRY: Yeah, up on the hill there. There was the one where the gym is now. It was the only school they had. And Professor Sutton was the professor. And they all hollered about him ruling with an iron hand.

BARBARA: I've heard that.

TERRY: But he was the best, in my opinion, he was the best professor they ever had. And I worked for him a lot too.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Do you remember any of your other teachers?

TERRY: Mrs. Houston. I didn't like her at all. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: I remember Mrs. ---

TERRY: But she always wanted me, and I was the only one that could do it too. Oh, nobody else could wash windows like I could. And oh boy, I hated to wash windows for her. (Laughter)

MERLE: ... Lelah McGee.

TERRY: She would find a little speck down in the corner there. "See that there, let's get that off there." So, I'd rub and rub and it wouldn't come off. I'd said, "It's on your side of the window." "Oh, it isn't either." Oh, man, I didn't like her at all. I never could get along with her. Of course, I had to have the money, so I worked for her. Now Professor Sutton now, his first wife, oh man, she was a doll.

DOROTHEA: She was a teacher also?

TERRY: Yeah.

MERLE: Did you go to Lelah McGee?

TERRY: Huh? Yeah, I went to her too, Lelah McGee. And I'm trying to think of another teacher, but I can't recall what the other teacher was.

BARBARA: What did you do at recess time at school, do you recall?

TERRY: Oh, just same as they do now about. It wasn't much change in the recess and so forth.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Have Christmas programs and ---

TERRY: Yeah, they had a Christmas programs. And they were religious programs at that time. And now they don't have them.

BARBARA: You didn't have to worry about the separation of church and state.

TERRY: No, no, it's different now.

BARBARA: Uh huh, uh huh. And how big were your classes at that time?

TERRY: Oh, all the way from five to I think twenty was the most. The most at school that ever was, while I was going to school at the, there I think was a hundred and fifty, was the most that was ever in school. Where it is something like six or seven hundred now, isn't it?

BARBARA: Did you get to go to high school too?

TERRY: Yes, I went to high school here.

BARBARA: And that was where the Lincoln Junior High is now?

TERRY: And now, where there was no junior, where the junior high is now, and my first year I went to I had to go all over town to go to school. We went to the Mason Lodge, and the Odd Fellows Lodge, and where the church is across there is the ---

DOROTHEA: Episcopal.

TERRY: Episcopalian Church, and we went to all, all over town, because they were building the new school at that time. Silbaugh is the one that built the new school. And he got his brick, now two different places. But most of the brick come from where the Indian Reservation is now. There was a big clay formation there, and I can remember, I had to feed four-foot slabs into the furnace to bake those bricks.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

BARBARA: So, did you continue to do ranch work then in the summertime through your high school years?

TERRY: No, after I went to school, after I got into high school I didn't. See I went to work at the mill, Hines Mill in 19 and 30.

BARBARA: Oh, so ---

MERLE: Not 18 --- 19 ---

TERRY: 19 --- I didn't say 18 --- did I?

BARBARA: No.

TERRY: Did I say 18 ---? No, I said 19 ---

BARBARA: Okay. So, while you were in high school you started working out at the mill?

TERRY: Yeah, I was working at the mill nights, and going to school in the daytime.

BARBARA: So, they were running night and day at that time?

TERRY: Yeah, they started up at a night and day shift.

BARBARA: I see.

TERRY: When they started work.

MERLE: At Hines.

BARBARA: Uh huh. At the Hines Mill.

TERRY: You see Hines, more or less; Burns didn't feel the depression in the lumber business.

Hines had a lot of money so they operated. They figured this wouldn't last too long, so they built their inventory up. They had pretty close to almost a billion feet of lumber stacked up all over the yard, outside and everywhere. They had it stacked up and everything. Well, when the prices begin to come up and everything, they begin to move that out. Well, they built that see; top wage was thirty-three cents an hour. That was top wage. And when that there, you see, well they made their selves a billion there almost.

BARBARA: I guess.

TERRY: Because you see they moved that out at a great big high price, because the time when they

started moving it out, low wage was a dollar and twenty-five cents an hour. So, you can see how much that they were making off of that. They had the money to where they could operate and build that up like that you see. They were pretty smart. The old man Charlie Hines, boy he was a doll. They changed hands, as the boys took it over, it kind of changed. Now you take Charles, he was the youngest of the sons, and oh, he was a hard-boiled egg. He wouldn't --- but the old man Hines, he come through the mill, hi, hi, hi. Come over and shake your hand, and wanted to know how it was a going, and everything. If he see you happen to be standing around, come over here, let's set down here, let's talk this over. He'd ask you how things was a going, if it wasn't going to suit you, he'd want to know why.

BARBARA: Well, the sons probably were more businesslike than their dad.

TERRY: The sons, well Edward, Edward Hines his oldest son, was more like he was. But Charles, no he --- I've got a lot of money and you don't have anything. Well, phooey with you.

BARBARA: Okay, so when you graduated from high school then you went to work full-time at the Edward Hines Mill?

TERRY: Full-time, in the mill.

BARBARA: And what kind of a job did you do out there? What was your position?

TERRY: I tied lathe in the lathe mill. That was my first job.

BARBARA: And can you tell us all the different things that you did during your time there?

TERRY: And then I, then they shut down the lathe mill, and when they shut down the lathe mill, rather than lay me off, they offered me a job down into the planer mill part of that. And I went down there, and I spent the rest of the time down in the planer mill in the molding department.

BARBARA: And can you tell us some of the changes that you saw during the time that you started?

TERRY: Well, one of the biggest changes was when they made their factory. When they put their factory in, that was one of the biggest changes they had made during the --- of the years. Of course, they kept everything up to modern machinery. As they went along, they kept it up to ---

BARBARA: Kept updating as they went along.

TERRY: Yeah, yeah. And now they brag on how much lumber they're sawing, you know. They selective sawed then, where they don't selective saw now. They just make boards now, they ---

BARBARA: Just everything.

TERRY: Yeah, they don't make lumber now like they used to in them days. They select the log, they saw the log and they turn it over, and selective log. And they holler about how much they're getting through their mill now, well we put through five hundred thousand in a days time. And they get five hundred thousand now; they think they're doing big. It just shows the difference of --- there. Of course, they had sawyers who knew how to --- there. And in those days they had to ride the carriage, and the carriage man set the thickness what the sawyer would signal to him, what he wanted him to set it at. And he set the thickness. And then in later years they put in the automatic setter, and did away with the man that was riding the carriage.

BARBARA: So, they just saw the logs through?

TERRY: Yeah, yeah. I was --- they had the --- one of those carriages, those sawyers, those carriages up before the mill started up. And I was learning how to do that when I transferred to the loading, or the planer mill.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And so, you've worked from maybe, approximately 1930 until, when did you retire from the mill?

MERLE: 1978.

BARBARA: 1978.

TERRY: '78. I likened, I wanted to go on and work so I could say I worked for them for fifty years.

BARBARA: But you didn't quite make it.

TERRY: But in them days, when I retired, the union had it in their contract that you absolutely had to retire when you become 65. Well, now the foreman's tried to argue with the union to get me to work on, so I could work for them until I had my fifty years in with Hines. But the union says, no!

BARBARA: So now ---

TERRY: The reason why they said no, the man that took my job he was a union, a big shot in the

union, and he wanted my job. And so, he had the pull enough to get my job.

BARBARA: I don't think that, doesn't the law state now that you can't force them to retire at any age?

TERRY: Yeah, the law states now they can't do that, they can't do that now. Now in fact my neighbor over here, he's way past his, 65, and he's still working.

BARBARA: Well, there's still a bunch of men at 65 that are quite productive.

TERRY: Yeah, now the company wanted, the supervisors and the company and all of them wanted me to work on. They went to bat for me but it didn't do no good. They said no, we break it now; we have to break it for somebody else.

BARBARA: Yeah.

TERRY: Of course, the reason why, he had a good point there, he wanted the job, and it was paying big. It was paying the top wage in the mill at that time.

BARBARA: So, when did you take a break then, and go back to Oklahoma to find Merle, to bring her back here to marry?

TERRY: Oh, well ---

BARBARA: It had to be in there sometime, you took sometime off.

TERRY: Yeah, well after they got the union, you had a two weeks vacation coming to you once a year. And that was in the year, see was trying to think when we went back. I think it was in September when we went back there.

MERLE: In October.

TERRY: And we brought, I and my brother was still alive at that time, and we bought a brand-new car. New Chevrolet, never had a single mile on it, and took off.

BARBARA: Oh, just you and your brother? Your mother ---

TERRY: Yeah, and my mother, we wanted to take her back to see her mother. And the three of us went back. And in the process, my dad's mother, she kept in contact with us all the time.

BARBARA: Well, that's nice.

TERRY: And we sent her pictures and stuff like that. She did. And every now and then, she'd

send us a hundred dollars, or fifty dollars, or a suit or so forth and so on.

BARBARA: She liked to keep the contact ---

TERRY: We told her that we was coming back to see her. What did she do; call a family reunion.

BARBARA: Oh, that was nice.

TERRY: And in the process we stopped, see we come to --- she lived in Ponca City, Oklahoma. Well, we stopped in Woodward, Oklahoma to see my --- or the farm rather was just out of Woodward, Oklahoma, I'll say Woodward, and to there. So, it made us, and that there, it made us one day late of getting there. My dad said, "Oh," he said, "they're probably coming in some old dilapidated car, broke down somewhere." Well, his brother said, "No," he said, "I've got more faith in them boys." He said, "They wouldn't come out to see us that way." And he had a '28 Chevrolet, you know. And he said, "They wouldn't do that." Well, I drove up, when we got to Ponca City, I drove up in front of the house. When I drove up in front of the house, and I asked to see if I had the right location, I asked if this is where Mrs. Hills lived. And my dad answered the door, and he says, "What do you want?" Sarcastic, you know. He saw the car out there, you know. He didn't, he didn't know me, because he had never seen any pictures or anything like that. He never did know us. And he says, "What do you want?" He says, "We don't allow salesmen around this house."

BARBARA: Oh, dear.

TERRY: And I, before I could have anything to say, or say anything, he just kept a firing right back at you. Said, you can move on and everything. So, my grandma wanted to know what was all the argument going on about. And she looked, and she saw me.

MERLE: He looks exactly like his father and his grandmother.

TERRY: She come out of, she come out of the kitchen miles an hour, give me a big hug. And he stepped back, and he says, "Oh, I guess you must be Terry."

BARBARA: Oh, dear.

TERRY: And then my uncle, they were all in the front room waiting for this family reunion, you know. And my uncle spoke up, he says, "What did I tell you Charlie?" He said, "I told you they wouldn't come in an old dilapidated car, didn't I."

BARBARA: So that was kind of a strange way to meet your father then.

TERRY: Yeah, that's the first time we got out, the first time we got out of Burns.

BARBARA: First time out of Burns, back to Oklahoma.

TERRY: But ---

BARBARA: So ---

DOROTHEA: Is that where you met your wife then?

TERRY: So, we took quite a little bit of money with us. So, we decided we, after they had their family reunion, a big dinner and everything, next couple of days we decided we'd take them out to a big restaurant for a dinner. And we got them all to this restaurant, so I tipped the waitress off, I wanted the slip. And she laid the slip down on my, there. My dad, well he'd of let me pay for it. But my uncle saw what happened, and he grabbed that slip, and he said, "You guys come this far to see us," he says, "you're not going to pay for this meal." Well, we said that was, we told him that was the deal when we went out to dinner, for us to pay for it. He said, "Well, you're not going to pay for it." My dad would have let us pay for it. And that's the only time, that is the only time I ever saw my dad.

MERLE: I think he was pretty well off.

BARBARA: Uh huh. So how ---

TERRY: Why I say the only time I ever saw him --- that I remember of seeing him.

BARBARA: Uh huh. So, on this trip then, how did you meet Merle?

TERRY: Well, I was staying at one of my uncle's place, pretty close to where she lived. And they decided they would throw a big ice cream feed for us. And so that's how come I met her. And I asked her for a date the next night. And we corresponded, what was it, how many years was it, three?

MERLE: Four.

TERRY: Four years.

MERLE: About four.

TERRY: We corresponded with letters for four years, and I finally got courage enough to ask her

to marry me. And what did she do but say, yes!

BARBARA: So, did you go back there and get her?

TERRY: Yeah, I went back there, and we got married in the church.

DOROTHEA: What date was that?

TERRY: What?

DOROTHEA: What date?

MERLE: November the 12th, 1930.

BARBARA: So, then you moved back to Burns then with a new bride.

TERRY: New bride, yeah.

BARBARA: And then you continued working at the mill?

TERRY: Oh, yeah.

BARBARA: Where did you live then when you first came back here?

TERRY: Here, here.

MERLE: Down at McQueen Court.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you lived on McQueen Court?

TERRY: Well, we were, when we first come we stayed here for about a month, wasn't it?

MERLE: Oh, no, no, about a week.

TERRY: We kind of think it was longer than that.

MERLE: We moved over here to McQueen's, Vella McQueen's, do you remember her?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MERLE: Okay, they ran the little old motel thing over here where the Ponderosa is.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MERLE: We lived in one of those little units. And later we moved up on the hill out at Sizemore's. That was a mistake. (Laughter) Not really. And we lived there, and then before Everett was born, we moved down here to old Vaughn Schmaltz, was that his name? Old lawyer was here, old crabby thing.

DOROTHEA: I don't remember him.

MERLE: German fellow, he was a lawyer.

TERRY: Boy, he was ---

MERLE: It was a little old white house.

TERRY: He was really a shrewd lawyer too.

MERLE: Then we moved from there to Stella Barnes little house down there, when he was about five months old. And then his mother passed away. His brother passed away in '42, then his mother passed away the next year, and so we moved over here. Everett was three.

BARBARA: To this house when he was three?

MERLE: Uh huh. He was three, and he is forty-eight now.

BARBARA: Oh, my. And then you have a daughter also?

MERLE: Uh huh.

BARBARA: Uh huh, and her name?

MERLE: Janice.

BARBARA: Janice, okay.

TERRY: And the son is Everett.

MERLE: Yeah, your husband's name is Everett, isn't it?

BARBARA: Yes, that's right.

MERLE: Not very many Everett's, really.

BARBARA: That's right.

MERLE: His brother's name was Everett, so I named him after his brother and my youngest brother.

BARBARA: Oh, that's nice.

MERLE: I had thought about Jack, and then I, I thought oh no, you know, it sounds kind of like a mule. (Laughter)

TERRY: I will say when going back to work in the sawmill, that was in the days you had to be a man to work there. Not like it is now, a drugstore cowboy, or a powder puff. You had to be a real man or you wouldn't work there.

MERLE: To hear Everett tell it, you do yet. Keep a working you ---

TERRY: Of course, they didn't, they didn't have their computers, and they didn't have this, and they didn't have that to, you know, do things for you.

BARBARA: You physically had to move things around ---

TERRY: Yeah, you had to move it all by hand and everything.

BARBARA: Uh huh. So, when you got through with a days work, you were tired.

TERRY: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you work five or six days a week at that time?

TERRY: We worked five days a week, and sometimes six. And when you first started to work, you didn't get your paid time and a half, until they passed the law. When you worked over a forty-hour week, you had to pay time and a half. That's when they started paying the time and a half. And then of course the union, when the union come they started the time and a half in their contract.

MERLE: He worked all his vacations and ---

TERRY: For over an eight-hour day, you'd work over an eight-hour day, in them days, you would just get your straight time. Like I said ---

BARBARA: That's what the government people do, they work long hours, they don't get any extra pay either.

TERRY: Like I said, when I started, it was thirty-three cents an hour is what you got. And when I quit, well it was a lot more.

BARBARA: You had regular paid vacations at a set time every year? Could you take them ---

TERRY: No, not them days, you had a right to take it when you wanted it ---

BARBARA: I see.

TERRY: --- them days. But now they shut it down and take it, unless you're a millwright or a maintenance man, or something like that. That's when you work during the shut down, because they want to repair.

BARBARA: Right.

TERRY: And you work, and then --- so I never did take it during a shutdown. I always had to take it when, otherwise.

BARBARA: And did you usually, when you took your vacation, did you get out of town, or did you do other jobs?

TERRY: Well, I did. I went out in the hay fields.

BARBARA: So, you didn't have a vacation. You just did other work then.

TERRY: Yeah, I always went out in the hay fields.

MERLE: It was kind of a vacation though.

TERRY: Well, it was a vacation. You went away from the sawmill.

BARBARA: Something different.

TERRY: Yeah, something different.

BARBARA: That was good. Uh huh.

MERLE: Good food, good people.

TERRY: Yeah, I always went out in the hay fields.

MERLE: Worked for Nora Hodgson, you remember them.

BARBARA: Who was that?

MERLE: Nora Hodgson, she is dead, she died.

DOROTHEA: Who all did you work for in the fields?

TERRY: Oh, I worked for Clemens, and I worked for Hotchkiss's, and I worked for, what she said just now.

DOROTHEA: Hodgson.

TERRY: Hodgson.

MERLE: ...

TERRY: And then in them days your breakfast was steaks, you know. Instead of, not like they are now, a bowl of cereal. They give you ---

BARBARA: You worked hard; you had to have the energy to do it.

TERRY: And you got a roast or a steak at night.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

TERRY: And I can remember when I was working for the Pacific Livestock, trying to say his name, I can't say it. He went to the superintendent and told him that the men was getting tired of steaks for breakfast. And he said, "Well, what do you want us to do about it?" He said, "Well," he said, "you know we've got a lot of these wild tule hogs," he said, "why can't I kill one of them?" He says, "You can't do no shooting on the ranch." He said, "I'm not going to do any shooting on the ranch." He said one day, he said, "How are you going to kill them?" He says, "I'll kill them." And the way he went and killed them now, he got him a pint of whiskey and got about half drunk and went out there and lassoed them. And he'd jump off of his horse and cut their throats before they had a chance to get up.

BARBARA: Oh, my.

SIDE B

TERRY: The superintendent wouldn't have give him permission if he thought he could kill them. Because he idolized them there tule hogs.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

TERRY: So, he wouldn't have given permission to do it. And after we'd had four or five hogs went through --- see you take four or five, say approximately fifty men to every meal, well it don't take long to go through a hog.

DOROTHEA: No.

TERRY: Or a cow, or something like that, you know. And then the way they, you knew how they took care of their meat in them days, didn't you? You know you don't have coolers or anything like that. They would kill that cow and hang it up at night and let it air out, and then put it under a pile of hay in the daytime, wrap it in canvas and put it under a pile of hay in the daytime, you see. Then at night when the flies are all gone to bed, they hang it back up, let it cool out, and that way. They wouldn't take long to go through a cow, as far as that.

DOROTHEA: Like my husband says, you spent all your time packing the meat, and wrapping the

meat, and covering the meat, and hanging the meat, and covering the meat, and packing the meat.

TERRY: Yeah, just about right.

DOROTHEA: He said you didn't let it last too long, because ---

TERRY: We all thought it was fun to watch him go, we'd all go out there and watch him lasso those hogs. Only way he could do it is get half drunk. Lasso them and then jump off and cut their throat before they had a chance to get up. Oh, they'd tear a leg right off of a guy. They were wild.

DOROTHEA: Did they have the big long snouts and ---

TERRY: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I don't think there is any tule hogs out there now. I haven't heard of any lately.

DOROTHEA: I don't know either.

TERRY: I think they finally all disappeared.

DOROTHEA: I think they got extinct. (Laughter) I think they killed them all, and ate them all.

BARBARA: What did you do for entertainment in your early married life? Did you go to movies, or dances, or ---

TERRY: Not too much, did we.

MERLE: Raised our kids, and went to church. I have never been a member of this church, but I've gone. It would be a preference, you know, Nazarene Church.

BARBARA: Uh huh. So, you just pretty much worked all the time.

TERRY: Yeah, just worked.

MERLE: Just about.

BARBARA: Did you have any hobbies?

TERRY: Well, not particularly then. While I was growing up I didn't have any. I do now of course, I have my hobbies. What you see in the front yard we ---

BARBARA: Well, that was kind of what I was going to get to. Did you get into your flower raising, and your ornaments and things after you retired from the mill, or ---

MERLE: No, before.

BARBARA: Before.

MERLE: Everett was about nine. And there wasn't any houses over here see, it was all bare except the old house, Frye house I think it is, I don't know. Anyway, Dora Johnson was born there. And up on the hill were rocks. He had a little coaster wagon, and he was big even then. So, he'd go up there and haul rocks down here, and we started our first flowerbed like that.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right.

MERLE: Janice would sit on the rocks; he had to haul her, rocks and all. But he was large, and he liked to do it. Something to do, you know. Kids need things, and they need people working with them. I see a lot of them now that need it.

BARBARA: That's for sure.

MERLE: Teach them to do something, you know.

BARBARA: So, were you both interested in growing flowers and gardens?

MERLE: Well, I think he had to be, after that.

TERRY: And she didn't think I had enough to do, so she took on the fairgrounds so I could have more to do.

BARBARA: Oh, she took it on, you didn't?

TERRY: She said I had to do it down at the fairgrounds.

MERLE: We came about it in a strange way.

TERRY: She did the supervising.

MERLE: The county agent, I don't remember what that girl's name was. What was her name Janice?

JANICE HILLS: I can't, don't know.

MERLE: County, or the 4-H leader girl. She asked me, called me one day and she said, "Could you tell me what we could grow down at the fairgrounds, that would grow?" I said, "Anything will, if you water it." But when you go once a month to look about it, you don't grow anything. So, that's about all that was said. And I said, well in the spring, that was about after the fair, I said in the spring why contact me and maybe we can work out something, you know. So, in the spring Mildred Fine came by and she said, "I understand that you people volunteered to do the flower

work at the fairgrounds." I said, "Well it's news to me." And she said, "I couldn't believe it, the work that you have here, you know, and take on that." I said, "Well, I didn't, we didn't really volunteer." And then I told her what had transpired. And then I said, "We'll try." It was then too late to get plants almost. I just had some leftovers, and then I ran out here to --- where did I go, the little greenhouse place down here somewhere. Anyway, I went and got a few petunias, and I think she got half a flat somewhere. That's the way we started out.

BARBARA: And what year was this?

MERLE: I believe it has been five years ago, I'm not sure.

DOROTHEA: Was that Shelley Pagel?

MERLE: No.

DOROTHEA: It wasn't Shelley.

MERLE: It was the girl that married Turrell, now what was that---

BARBARA: Oh, Teresa Hogue.

DOROTHEA: Hogue.

BARBARA: Hogue, yes, uh huh.

MERLE: It was just the year I think before she left too. Just right soon after that she did leave. But that's the way we got involved there. And we just, like we have here, we've added a little more to it every year. They moved in some of those big tires this spring, and we've planted those. And then Jack gave us an old stock tank. Of course, like Everett said, if there is an empty bucket, Moms got to fill it. (Laughter) So he came home, and he said, "Mom, do you want that old stock tank down there, that old aluminum thing?" Well, I didn't even know what it looked like and I said, "Well, I don't know what it looks like even." So, he took me down there, and I said, "Yeah, I want it." So, we moved it, had some holes, which was beneficial, in the bottom. So, we moved it over to the end of the Memorial Building and we planted it. And it's done better there than anywhere. I think because the traffic isn't over there like it is. We haven't had any real problem though, only --- When they had one of those deals, oh that rodeo, high school thing, kids ran over our pyramids with their bicycles or something. Made Everett kind of mad, of course. People that have no children can

always raise everybody else's.

BARBARA: Isn't that the truth.

MERLE: And you know Mom, I'm going to just chew them out. And I said, "Well, just tell them to get out of them. But leave them alone otherwise. Because they'll come back and do it again."

BARBARA: If you get on them too hard, then they'll just keep doing it ---

MERLE: Yeah, retaliate.

BARBARA: Yes, uh huh. Right.

MERLE: For attention, see. But other than that, we've had no real problem. Only getting dirt. We could not get any decent dirt. Of course, otherwise they don't know what it takes to grow a flower. They know what it takes to grow a calf, or a horse, but not a flower. (Laughter) So last year I ordered my own dirt, got Gus Crider to bring me some dirt that I knew was good, because I've used it here. And then this spring Jack and Don took part of that, and I paid for it too. And I threatened them if any of them used our dirt --- but went down there in April and about half of it was gone. Found out they had taken it.

BARBARA: Oh, no.

DOROTHEA: What did they do with it?

MERLE: Huh?

DOROTHEA: What did they do with it?

MERLE: Planted some trees.

TERRY: Oh, put it around his trees. He was planting trees; he wanted to put it around his trees.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

MERLE: So, I said, "Well, we need some dirt."

TERRY: Well, and then put them out, plant them trees and never put a drop of water on them.

MERLE: I told Mildred, I said, "Well, I'll just have to get some more dirt." And she said, told Everett then that they would get some. But it isn't, it's rocky, it's not that good a dirt. We had to mix a lot of peat moss and stuff with it. But they just bring old hardpan. That first dirt they got at Bud Garland's, oh, we had to take a chisel and peck it to get a hole in it.

BARBARA: Oh, goodness.

MERLE: ...

TERRY: We got one wheel barrel full of dirt, and five wheel barrels full of rocks out of it. Now that was their top dirt that they brought us.

MERLE: Big old boulders like that.

BARBARA: For goodness sakes.

DOROTHEA: What did you do with all the rocks, did you ---

TERRY: We just threw them right off ... to get rid of them. We wanted to get rid of them.

MERLE: Everett threw them in a dumpster, old big dumpster setting there. He's done all of that. Everett has done all the cleaning up the dirt, and making the beds.

DOROTHEA: Well, it's really looking sharp down there. I think it really looks nice.

MERLE: I didn't know if he could or not, with this spring.

TERRY: We changed it quite a little bit this year, you know.

DOROTHEA: I haven't been down there.

TERRY: Yeah, we changed it quite a little bit.

MERLE: Did a pretty good job.

DOROTHEA: Now do you do your own carving and painting on your animals and things out here?

MERLE: Janice draws the patterns.

TERRY: Now, going back to the craftwork we do, I do the sawing out on a band saw. And to get our patterns, sometimes we see something in the paper we like.

MERLE: Funny papers.

TERRY: Some of them things in there are out of the funny papers and so forth. We see things that we like ---Well Jenny (Janice) will enlarge it to the size we think we would like to have it enlarged. We have an enlarger. She enlarges it to the size we want, you know, and then I cut it out. And I put the undercoat on, just the undercoat paint on. If it's going to be a yellow design, I'll put a yellow coat, undercoat yellow on it. If it's white, where the majority of it is going to be white, I'll put the white coat on it. And then she does all the detail. Jenny does all the detail on it. Puts all the

coloring in it and everything, and the detail work.

DOROTHEA: She is very good.

TERRY: And we sell quite a little bit of it. We have sold over, oh probably about two hundred and twenty-five dollars to two hundred and fifty dollars worth this year.

MERLE: This spring.

BARBARA: That's great.

MERLE: Just local really.

TERRY: Yeah.

MERLE: There are a lot of tourists that come ---

TERRY: But now actually, we don't make any money off of it.

MERLE: And she takes orders and then fills them in the winter.

TERRY: Time, her detail work and my cutting out and everything, we probably maybe make two bits an hour off of it.

MERLE: Her face is what ---

BARBARA: Well, you can't, when you have a hobby you can't count it as making money on it.

TERRY: No, no, no, no, no, see we got to have something to do in the wintertime.

BARBARA: Right, uh huh.

TERRY: So, we do that in the wintertime.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And, well getting back to your flowers, what all have you planted out at the fairgrounds? Petunias, and ---

MERLE: We have petunias, and ornamental kale, and cabbage, and that's about it. Oh, there is some other odds and ends that I had left in the greenhouse.

BARBARA: You have a greenhouse here that you start the plants?

MERLE: Well, I buy the petunias in Bend.

BARBARA: Oh, do you?

MERLE: And the girl over there gives me ten percent off, because it is donation work.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MERLE: But I didn't like some of the plants this spring, so I went over to Lands Systems and bought them. And I pay for them.

DOROTHEA: You pay for it all, you do this all voluntary?

MERLE: Uh huh.

TERRY: Yeah, all ---

MERLE: Except the water, they furnish the water.

TERRY: And we even pay for the plants, we have to buy the plants. We even pay for them, and don't charge the board, fair board for it.

MERLE: I raise all that I use here at home, just about everything.

BARBARA: Have you tried our local nursery up here? She might give you a deal.

MERLE: Yes.

TERRY: Yeah.

MERLE: Yes, I think she would, but I know where she gets them. And I had a little problem this summer, and I went out and bought what I thought was tall snapdragons. Well, they happened to be six inches tall. It wasn't her fault.

BARBARA: Oh, the low, new bushy ones, I have some of those in.

MERLE: It wasn't her fault really, because they were labeled as ---

BARBARA: They were mislabeled.

MERLE: She buys them from Cascade Gardens in Bend. I know where she gets them. And I like to go over to Bend, go through the greenhouses.

BARBARA: A good excuse to get out of town.

MERLE: Well I just like to --- Everett does too, we both, he takes me. We go to all the greenhouses, over to Doug Stotts at Redmond, all over. And we have a lot of fun; spend the whole weekend going in greenhouses.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And what kind of fertilizer do you use on the plants?

MERLE: I don't use any.

BARBARA: You don't use any.

MERLE: The commercials.

TERRY: We might mention that, the way we get our flowers in the fall, right after the frost has hit them, we shred it all and put it back into the soil.

MERLE: Plow it under.

TERRY: And we plow it under in the fall, because by letting it lay out, it dries out and takes all the fertilizer part, or the contents out of it. So, we plow it in, in the fall. And then before we are ready to plant in the spring, we plow again. Or cultivate it I should say, instead of plowing.

MERLE: Harold Otley was kind enough to come and tell us the first year; I'm going to get you people a load of manure. Well, we didn't ever see it. Went on now five years or more, we haven't ever seen it. Every fall he comes around and tells us. I said, "Well, just forget it." you know. I did take some of this Atlas Fish Food down there the other day and put on the dahlias, but I don't think it's doing that much good.

DOROTHEA: A lot of times in your fertilizer, especially if it comes off of one of the ranches, you get a lot of weeds in it.

MERLE: Well, yeah, but you get them anyway.

DOROTHEA: Do you?

MERLE: We haven't used any out here for five or six years, and it's solid weed carpet all over everywhere this year.

TERRY: Well now ---

BARBARA: It blows from the air from every other yard, whatever they have, you get it.

TERRY: Yeah.

MERLE: The only thing I don't like to get it, if it has rocks.

TERRY: Like, right over there.

MERLE: We got some out at the five-mile place, and it was a mess, don't ever get that.

TERRY: If you will notice the Pine Room is --- get all mixed up there. If you notice the Pine Room, weeds are down. Everett mows that once every two weeks, he mows that over there to keep the weeds down. We don't --- more or less right in front of our place, and we don't want the weeds

up over there. And they don't pay much, very little they pay.

MERLE: They give him a dinner occasionally. But he hasn't asked for anything.

TERRY: Well, they give him two dinners this, he's mowed it about sixteen times this summer, and they have give him two ten dollar dinners.

MERLE: Well, we like the kids, they've grown up here, you know. And it isn't all that big a deal. If more people would do something ---

TERRY: And they look right over this way ---

BARBARA: Right, we'd all be better off if we didn't stick our hand out all the time.

TERRY: Well, we fuss about it, the city has got laws that they can take care of that, and they won't do it. But now we have visitors from all over the world that comes through here. We have them from Holland; we have them from Paris, and Germany, and everything. And in our guest ---

MERLE: They are nice people.

TERRY: Our guest book, we have them sign it in American language, and also sign it in their own language, the way they write it in their own language, right under it. We think that's kind of nice to do it that way, you know.

MERLE: If they can. But we haven't had --- And a lot of friends just here, like from Wyoming we have a couple, an older couple who come by every summer, twice a summer and spend some time with us. Some from Washington, and California, and those kinds of people are about the best you can meet.

BARBARA: Oh, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Oh yes, they are.

BARBARA: What all kinds of flowers do you have in your yard here?

MERLE: Oh, I've got marigolds, zinnias, cosmos, four-o'clocks, glads ---

TERRY: Well we, we was counting up how many different flowers we had ---

MERLE: Well, one year, who was it, Mosley did a write-up on us and he counted thirty-five, he came down here. We walked all through it, and we had thirty-five different kinds. I didn't even realize it, you know, we got just plain looking.

BARBARA: You have some ---

MERLE: Really sometimes you stay so busy you don't even see it.

BARBARA: Right. Some perennials and some annuals?

MERLE: Not too many perennials, because the weeds get in them and you have to dig them out by the roots to clean them out. We have phlox, and that's about it.

BARBARA: So, you mostly just replant every summer then?

MERLE: Yes.

BARBARA: Do you change your flowerbeds around, or you grow pretty much the same thing?

MERLE: Not a great lot. There is not much place to change them too.

BARBARA: No, I mean different flowers you try.

MERLE: Well, we have all this lots in the back now. Back there against the very back fence, I brought plants from over at Bend and they are out at Mountain View Mall, I don't know if you've ever seen them. And they are shrubs, and they are pretty. And they were throwing them away, it was in the fall. That's a good time to go when they are dumping this stuff. And they just give them to you a lot of times, if we're there, and they know us you know.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MERLE: And so that's what that is back there. But that used to be an old one, you know what it was. An old, what do you call it, a car thing. Wrecked cars.

TERRY: Wreck yard, wrecking yard.

MERLE: Wrecking yard is what I'm trying to say. Old Browning had it.

TERRY: You see they had cars piled up there as high as four deep.

BARBARA: Oh, dear.

TERRY: Right on top of each other.

MERLE: Just all kind of metal, talk about ---

TERRY: I don't know whether you remember that or not.

DOROTHEA: Browning had it.

TERRY: Yeah.

MERLE: Every time I go out there, I find a screw or ---

TERRY: We bought it to keep the Indians from going out there and hanging out.

MERLE: Oh, we had an awful time.

TERRY: The Indians got an awful mess, and we bought it to keep that.

MERLE: Well, it was just a sanitation problem, you know, got to be a sanitation problem.

TERRY: Jenny and I bought it together.

MERLE: The estate cut the prices and we went and bought them.

TERRY: Well, I was going to start my flower garden back there. To start with was going to be potatoes, and corn, radishes, and flowers and everything.

DOROTHEA: That kind of garden.

TERRY: Now you go back there and look you don't see any of my flowers back there at all.

(Laughter)

BARBARA: Do you have any vegetables at all, do you raise tomatoes?

TERRY: No, don't have --- I got corn. I started my corn in February. I got corn growing back there. It is tasseling out now.

BARBARA: No tomatoes?

TERRY: Yeah, we got tomatoes, yeah.

MERLE: That's all I sell, I sell tomato plants in the spring.

BARBARA: Oh, do you?

TERRY: There is another thing down at the fairgrounds too. If you notice on the west end of the race barn patty, you'll see one tomato vine. That one tomato vine got there some way; it got there by a seed. We don't know how it got there, that seed.

MERLE: No, it's planted there.

TERRY: Now this is to start with.

MERLE: No, no, no.

TERRY: It started there by a seed, and it grew up. Well, now we've had people come from Bend, and we have had people come from different places, that's the very first thing they go to see if that

tomato is in that flower bed. They can't quite understand why that tomato plant is right at the end of the flowerbed.

MERLE: Some people that lived at Lakeview, what was their name? Anyway, he is dead now. She said that she ate tomatoes off of that during the fair the first year I had one down there.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's what I was going to say; I don't think you probably have any left after fair time. Because I'd like to taste them myself.

TERRY: You know, did you get some of them too?

DOROTHEA: No, I didn't, but I sure would like to.

TERRY: Well, now I tell you ... you got almost to be up before daylight to get it, and that's Mrs. Hoyt.

DOROTHEA: Oh, really.

TERRY: Oh, man.

MERLE: Yeah.

TERRY: She'll go buy her a hamburger and right over there to the tomatoes she goes, and gets a tomato.

MERLE: They are the cherry ones, children like those too. The Sweet One Hundreds, they have so many on them.

DOROTHEA: Oh yeah, they are plum full.

MERLE: School kids come down in the fall, they bring field trips down.

DOROTHEA: My sister-in-law --- I got last year, and we said we are going to go out there and get those. And they said, "Oh, you better not." But we said, "Well, they sure look good."

MERLE: I don't care.

TERRY: Well, we don't care; they're down there for that purpose. Why not let somebody have them. We have more here ---

MERLE: Well, that's ---

DOROTHEA: I'm glad, I'm glad you told me, because this year if they are still on there, I'll go get some.

TERRY: You go get one. As I say, if you can beat Mrs. Hoyt to it, now you'll be all right. Now we found that out last year, somehow, she happened --- we were down there and they were roping or something and she was there. I said, "Well, I wondered what happened to all those tomatoes." She said she was getting them. She'd go buy her a hamburger and then she would go over there and get her a tomato. Well, I said, well, I wondered what took all those tomatoes. Said, "Now I know." I said it kind of a little sarcastic, you know.

BARBARA: Do you have to go out every day or two and water out there?

TERRY: Oh man, we go twice a day.

BARBARA: Twice a day.

TERRY: Yeah.

MERLE: We work about, from about the 10th of April until October. About, I would say four to five hours a day.

BARBARA: Oh my. That is really donating one's time. That's great.

MERLE: Well, see the four of us. Janice does all the insect spraying, Everett does the heavy work, and I do the planting and getting, selecting the plants, and Terry does the weeding. So, it's a family thing.

TERRY: Yeah.

BARBARA: Well, that's nice that you work together.

TERRY: Yeah. Yesterday it took me an hour, approximately about an hour and fifteen to an hour and a half to do the watering down there.

MERLE: It's awfully dry down there.

TERRY: You see, them places we got to carry the bucket to water our plants. We've asked them to put hydrants in for us down there, where we wouldn't have to. Oh, we haven't got the money, we haven't got the money.

MERLE: Well, they don't need to down there.

TERRY: Well they, we don't need it. And they won't put it in for us. So there in front of the ticket booth we have to carry it by bucket to water.

MERLE: Well ...

DOROTHEA: Oh.

TERRY: And whoever started that by the 4-H building, whoever planted that to start with there, I would like to know why they put those great big trees ---

MERLE: Well, I know who done that, but ---

TERRY: --- in there, why did they locate them in that position.

MERLE: Great big trees in there.

TERRY: They are great big trees and slammed them right against there. Now we have asked the fair board to move them. And we told them if they would move them and put them in a position close to where we could water them, we would water them to see that they get growing again. But they won't.

MERLE: Well, they are all right; you just can't grow much in that bed because they take a lot of the nutrients out, and the water too.

TERRY: Just as I say, when it comes to working with the fair board on our flowers, it's not a racehorse, or a bucking horse, and they don't want nothing to do with it.

MERLE: Well, I'll tell you one thing. Last year the lady who judges all the fairs in the state, she's from Heppner, came down here and she said that's one reason they got a rating as they did was because of the flowers. Now she said up there, they have so much vandalism that she grows them in pots and then she takes the pots down there at fair time and puts them out. But we haven't had that problem that much. So ---

DOROTHEA: This is what I'd like to see get done on main street more is, like for instance the Arrowhead lot.

MERLE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I'd love to see the city do something with that.

TERRY: Well, they're going to put that a city park in there. All that will be ---

DOROTHEA: I know.

TERRY: Why they put that in there, the city park will just be a hang out. That's all it will be. It

will be the dumbest thing they ever done, the way I look at.

MERLE: If they don't fence it in, walk off and leave it.

BARBARA: Isn't it Bill Allen's property though?

DOROTHEA: I don't know.

BARBARA: I don't think it belongs to the state, I think its Bill Allen's property.

MERLE: Maybe it isn't.

TERRY: It is still owned I think by the attorney who moved away from here, went to Portland.

MERLE: No, no, no.

TERRY: I think he still owns it.

MERLE: No, they think that Bill Allen does. And I rather believe he does, since you mentioned it.

BARBARA: I think it's his property.

TERRY: Yeah, I still think, I can't think of his name right now.

BARBARA: No, but I think its Bill Allen's property.

MERLE: The insurance man.

BARBARA: The insurance man.

MERLE: You know Bill Allen.

TERRY: No, no, no, no, ---

MERLE: You're talking about an attorney.

TERRY: See he didn't, the one that owned the hotel when it burnt down, is the one that still owns it I think.

MERLE: I don't think so.

BARBARA: Well, I had thought I had read in the paper that it belonged to Bill Allen.

MERLE: Well, I'll have to agree with you, I think I did too.

BARBARA: Whatever.

MERLE: One year they planted a lot of stuff out here by the cemetery gate.

BARBARA: I think, didn't the garden club do that?

MERLE: I think some of it. And then the Scouts.

DOROTHEA: But they never watered it.

MERLE: No, they didn't water it. So, one day I gave them a whole lot of seed, daisy seed. The Scouts had to plant so many daisies that year.

BARBARA: Oh.

MERLE: So, we went out there to see them, and you couldn't even find them. They had dried up. You know you got to water it; you got to take care of it.

DOROTHEA: Especially when we have weather like we've had this year.

MERLE: Oh yeah.

DOROTHEA: It's really ---

TERRY: It's a bad year.

MERLE: You just don't.

DOROTHEA: It's just really hot, and the wind blows so much that it dries everything out.

MERLE: Yes, it does. It's even dried my insides out. I can't hardly breathe or talk.

BARBARA: Have you belonged to any of the garden clubs here in Burns?

MERLE: No. And I'll tell you why, one reason. I had gone to some of them as a guest, and they just sit and visit. And about four of them grow anything. And number two, one-year Ilda Mae Hayes, do you remember her? She came down here and got flowers, and she said, "You can join the garden club, but we could have the meetings somewhere else." I thought, well too bad, you know. I said, "I'm getting along fine without the garden club." Yeah, she didn't want to have it in our house, that was the object. I said --- well she said, you can have them out at Mrs. Whitney's. I said, "Mrs. Whitney has enough of her own to do, I'm not going down there." It was really kind of funny. And I thought, well--- Then they had a call and asked if they could come down like for a field trip or something. And then they don't show up. I even had cancelled a dental appointment for them. But that isn't why I don't belong to them, I'm just not a joiner and signer I guess.

TERRY: We found out what they done. They played cards all afternoon. We stay home all afternoon waiting for them to come, and they never did come.

MERLE: Some of them didn't know they were supposed to come. That Mary something ---

TERRY: And they've asked to come several times after that, and the minute they ask me, I say no sir!

MERLE: Well, I don't feel that way. It's just that I don't drive.

TERRY: I don't go for it. We put ourself out for them that day.

MERLE: And I don't have time. In the summer they ...

TERRY: I had to weed for two days ahead of time to get all the weeds out, make sure it was good and clean.

MERLE: So anyway, we got everything cleaned up.

TERRY: I wasn't about to let them come anymore.

MERLE: No, it's not that, really. I just don't, I don't drive, and it's been unhandy for me to go to some of these places. When the children were younger I couldn't go and take them, so I just --- I give them all flowers, anybody that wants them can have them free of charge if they want to come and get them.

TERRY: Well, now one year though, I won't mention any names, but one year we give, oh approximately, oh about two hundred and fifty wasn't it, three hundred dollars for ---

MERLE: I imagine.

TERRY: --- for flowers for a wedding. They got married in the barnyard, you know that was where they was supposed to, and they took the flowers and put them around the watering trough, which was alright, and everything like that. And there was one part of the flowers that she wanted real bad.

MERLE: Well, I'll tell you who it was ...

TERRY: She dug it up and put it in a pot ---

DOROTHEA: Who?

MERLE: ...

DOROTHEA: Oh, uh huh.

TERRY: And after it was all over with, she went and thanked everybody for doing this and that and everything. And even thanked the bartender for taking care of the bar, and never did mention

us.

MERLE: She was running the pie shop up at Corky's place, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MERLE: And she said, "Oh I'm going to bring you a couple big pies." Well, I never did see a pie, which is all right too.

TERRY: That kind of got me when she went and --- I didn't think too much of it about her mentioning these other ones until she mentioned her bartender.

MERLE: They just went out and dug them up while we were gone, without even telling anybody.

TERRY: But she mentioned the bartender, and we figured after we had given her approximately two hundred and fifty, three hundred dollars worth of flowers she could have at least thanked us for the flowers. But she didn't do it. She thanked everybody except us.

DOROTHEA: I guess.

MERLE: The only people I might charge for flowers is the florist. And I don't charge very much, but they're going to sell them.

TERRY: But, my idea of that was I think was, see she wanted to make it a big shot. Look at all the flowers I've got, and everything. And make everybody think that she bought them, see.

MERLE: Well, I don't ---

TERRY: And I think --- well we never, we give to weddings and we never charge for nobody.

MERLE: I just charge for tomato plants, that's all. And people don't mind paying for them.

BARBARA: That's right.

MERLE: But if I did any other I'd have to get a license, and it takes all the fun out of doing this.

DOROTHEA: Commercial license.

BARBARA: Right. Well, this is really your hobby, and how you spend your time, and fill your days. And we all need that, to have something to do.

MERLE: I used to sew all the time, and I found out that didn't pay as much as giving flowers away. So, I've kind of quit that after the kids got old enough to buy their own clothes, you know.

TERRY: Now the hobby, I said when we were cutting all these out last winter, and everything. I

said, "Oh, we never will get rid of them things, what do you want to cut them out for?" You know those boards, see we buy the very expensive that you can possibly buy.

MERLE: Plywood.

TERRY: The plyboard. Where it is clear on both sides, and everything. By doing that, we don't have to cut around the knots. We have less waste.

MERLE: There is no holes.

TERRY: We pay a little bit more in percentage than what we would pay otherwise, but by cutting around the knots you probably don't pay as much. Because see, your knots would be waste. You can't have a knot in one of those out there.

DOROTHEA: Right.

TERRY: Because the pick works out of the knot and this and that, and you can always see the knot. The knots will crack, and by experimenting with them you know, how we have been doing. And we buy the most expensive boards you can buy. And that way we --- and I said, "Look at all of this material we are using up." I said, "We'll never get rid of them." We got them all sold. We could have sold more.

MERLE: She's got a set out there now, that big duck and the baby ducks, she's got that set made.

TERRY: Those baby ducks out there, we just took a special order for that. She wants it for her mother for a birthday present.

MERLE: Birthday present.

DOROTHEA: Oh, uh huh.

TERRY: Her mother was in our yard, and then she just idolized those ducks we got out there.

MERLE: She's Mrs. Tروف.

TERRY: And we took it. We've all but got it finished now. If Jenny will get on the ball and finish the detail work, we'll have it done.

MERLE: It's kind of fun though.

DOROTHEA: Well, it's very interesting, and I like to drive by and see what you've got out here new.

MERLE: I can't paint anything, nothing.

TERRY: Like we had one person the other day, said they drove by to see what changes we made so they know what to do in their yard.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

TERRY: Well, now that's something now, oh we like to see people do. We like to see people do something like that. Maybe we get this town cleaned up.

BARBARA: Yeah.

TERRY: Said they had a cleanup campaign. Why, they didn't have a cleanup campaign.

MERLE: We have never had a child bother anything out there. They like it, you know.

TERRY: That burns us up. And then too we have people, visitors come here and they say, "Don't you have a city ordinance to make people keep up their yards and everything?" And we say, "Yeah, we do." But they won't do anything about it. Said other people won't do anything about it. And they look over there and see the city pump yard where weeds are that high in the yard, over there around the pump house. And they said, "Well, that settles it, no wonder." The city don't think enough of it to keep their half cleaned up, well nobody will keep it cleaned up. Well, there is something to that.

MERLE: This little Esther (Hughet) Stiles, she used to be, she lived over here. I had to look in on her about five years. And if she even seen a gum wrapper laying out there she'd make me go pick it up, you know. She hired, she hadn't much money, but she hired somebody to keep that yard.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MERLE: Now look at it. There is a young woman over there that works at the bank from Bend. She has two lazy teenage kids. I mean they are lazy. And so, I finally, Jerry Wilke bought it last fall, Carl Wilke's son. He lives in Redmond, Washington. So, I wrote to him the other day and told him if he didn't clean it up I was going to file a complaint, and I was too. I think that he was paying her rent to keep it up. Because she got out there in a day or two and she started working at it. But it's a mess. She's left an awful mess.

TERRY: Well, she left a worse mess than it was.

MERLE: The house is just the same way inside.

BARBARA: Can you give us some hints maybe on raising flowers and gardens in Harney County?

MERLE: Just work hard, and it's a real challenge. Defy the frost.

BARBARA: Right.

MERLE: Try to. I just don't set mine out until late. I used to set it out and we cover it with cans. But when the kids went to work, got out of high school and went to work, that was too big a chore to get out and uncover all of that every morning, and cover it up at night. So, I just wait until it warms up in June. That's about the Fourth of July usually, I set it out.

TERRY: You see how ---

BARBARA: I don't usually set mine out until about the first week in June.

MERLE: Yeah, well even then you're not very safe.

BARBARA: It's risky.

MERLE: I tell the folks that get tomato plants, don't set them out until after Memorial Day, you know.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MERLE: And just work at it. And like to do it. If you don't like to do it, it's drudgery.

TERRY: How come we have so many people here though, is because they will be driving along the highway out there and they see a yard, and especially when they had the service station over there. Oh, they stopped to get gas over there and they would see our yard, and the first thing they would do is come right over here. And we've had a lot of people saying well when we come across the desert; we never did think we would run into anything like this.

MERLE: There was a young man came over here from Portland and he said, "I didn't know anything like this would grow over here." Janice said, "Well, that's why we're growing it, to show you that something can happen in Eastern Oregon."

BARBARA: Well, that's nice.

DOROTHEA: We need to publicize this Eastern Oregon a little bit.

MERLE: Yeah, right. Its kind of fun. We've kind of had a problem this spring because he broke

his foot, and then I've had this allergy like thing. But I don't let it get me down or stop me. I couldn't talk out loud for about seven weeks.

DOROTHEA: Just take a pill or two, and get rid of your allergies.

MERLE: Well, I didn't even do that.

TERRY: They don't do no good, those pills.

MERLE: No, I need an antibiotic, and I couldn't see a doctor. So, I finally got into Dr. Wendel, and he said it was caused from sinus problem and breathing dry. I've had spells of it ever since I was a little kid, so not going to kill me now. It's uncomfortable ---

TERRY: Down at the fairgrounds now, we've been taking the grand sweepstakes on the glad down there for the last two years. They put out that their plaque, started the plaque two years ago, and we've taken it both years. Yeah. And the only thing that the fair board has given us is a plaque with all of our names on it saying that we take care of the flowers down there. That's all, that's the only thing they have ever give us. Never have even thanked us or anything like that, at the end of the year, you know. We fight the fair board kind of heavy on that.

MERLE: The glad award is from Teague's. It's a traveling situation.

TERRY: In fact, this year ---

DOROTHEA: If you get it one more year now, you get to keep it don't you? I think if you get it three years in a row, you get to keep it.

TERRY: Oh no, no, no, ---

MERLE: Yes, it is something like that, but I'm not sure what it is.

TERRY: This is, well it's about that long, and this will be a whole series of names up and down.

MERLE: Well, that's what she is talking about.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

TERRY: Yeah, but I know if you take it three years in a row, you don't get to keep it.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you don't get to keep it?

MERLE: I'm not sure. Now you don't know either. I don't know either.

TERRY: Well, I do know. Because they wouldn't have such a big plaque if it was.

DOROTHEA: Well, I knew that they fill it up. But I think that they go through, and if there is anybody that is in there three years in a row, I think that when it's full, they get to keep it.

TERRY: No, not this one.

MERLE: Well, you don't know Terry.

DOROTHEA: Oh, okay.

TERRY: Well, I do know on this, because I know. Not on this one. This other plaque they give us, we get to keep it all the time.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I see.

TERRY: Yeah, we get to keep it all the time. It's ours.

MERLE: Well, it's just for a little appreciation plaque, you know.

TERRY: It's a personal plaque, we get to keep it. But this other one, you don't. It's just for; it's made for --- sort of like Dr. Weare's roses, you know, that plaque. He wouldn't have got to keep that after three years. They put each name on that year after year after year.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

TERRY: On that.

MERLE: I think there is something to what you say.

TERRY: But I'm kind of wanting somebody else to take it.

MERLE: I'm not worrying about whether ---

TERRY: It would make it more interesting, you know. If you're going to be the one to take it, why ---

DOROTHEA: Not very many people grow glads because they bloom, you know, pretty late, and you've got to ---

TERRY: You know, if you take it all the time, well it's interesting to see somebody else's name on that.

MERLE: These are kind of strange this year. Now there is about eight spikes that have come up and they are showing color, but they don't open up. I don't know what --- it's the heat I think, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MERLE: Everything is dwarfed.

DOROTHEA: I --- my flowers are not doing anything. It's just, they're about this tall and they've never done anything more. I blame my dirt, but ---

MERLE: No, it isn't that I don't think. It's just the year, climate, or something.

DOROTHEA: I've had a terrible, terrible time with them.

MERLE: But my begonias are not doing anything. They come up, and that's about it.

BARBARA: Mine are about this big, and that's the way they stay.

MERLE: Yeah. I don't know.

TERRY: Can you tell how much more to go? (*Tape)

DOROTHEA: Well, when this red light starts blinking, well that means we're about out of tape.

MERLE: I see you keep a looking, and I couldn't --- I've been a looking to see if I could see something.

DOROTHEA: Well, this has been a very interesting conversation we've had here. I've learned a lot through it, and learned about Harney County when it was --- early, in the early days. And about ---

MERLE: I'll tell you what impressed me when I first came, was old man Voegtly, Raymond Voegtly's father. He'd get up on top of a snow bank, up there you know where they scoop the snow up in the middle, and he had a big horn. And he'd blow through it and announce all the ball games, the church services, and all kinds. The town crier.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

MERLE: Yeah.

BARBARA: Town crier.

DOROTHEA: I've never heard that one before.

MERLE: Yeah, he did.

TERRY: Oh man, that was the good old days.

MERLE: He stand up there on top of it, you know, old four-buckle overshoes on. Of course, I had never lived in any town.

TERRY: They paid him to advertise that way.

MERLE: But it was funny, he just yell over this thing and he'd announce all the ball games, times, and any kind of an event that was going on, he'd get up and town cry.

TERRY: He'd get right out in the middle of the street.

DOROTHEA: Now his name was Nick?

MERLE: Was it Nick?

DOROTHEA: Was it Nick Voegtly?

MERLE: There was a young Voegtly too, Allan's dad was a ---

TERRY: It was an old, old man.

MERLE: I think his name was Nicholas, yeah.

DOROTHEA: I think it was.

MERLE: Anyway, he was a little off up here I think. When he died, he died at the county.

TERRY: See, the Voegtly Building was the first brick building in the city of Burns.

MERLE: Anyway, Everett was about four, and ---

TERRY: When I come here there wasn't any junipers back here on this hill.

DOROTHEA: They were just tiny ones, or there just wasn't any?

TERRY: There wasn't any, wasn't any. I got a picture, where is that, you know?

MERLE: I don't know.

TERRY: I got a picture here of where, where it is. And there wasn't any.

MERLE: I have a whole lot of pictures, but somebody ... never got them back. So ...

TERRY: And I've got other pictures where you could stand up where Copeland's is now --- say that's right --- why I lived where Copeland's is now too for awhile. And I also lived in the building, I didn't, but the boy I run around with, the preacher's son, where the Ye Olde Castle is now. And I remember one time I was sliding down the banister, you know, and they told us to stay off of that banister, we was going to get a blister. Well, the miss's preacher thought she was blistering her own boy, and I happened to come down first that time. And she grabbed a hold of me, and boy did I ever get a blistering. I really got it. And when she found out it was me, oh she felt sorry about it.

But we didn't slide down the banisters anymore.

MERLE: These are my doll babies I make. (*Photo album with pictures of dolls she has made.)

DOROTHEA: Oh, those are cute.

TERRY: That's her hobby in the wintertime.

MERLE: Yeah, I haven't got to do much of it. I wanted, I had some centennial dolls started and then we got down, the garden came on, and I just had to quit.

BARBARA: Well, I know for other hobbies you like to go to all the sporting events at the high school.

MERLE: Oh, yes.

BARBARA: I'm always there too, so I see you there.

MERLE: Yeah, we've always admired you for doing this. A lot of them when their kids get out of school quit.

BARBARA: Oh yes, I know that but ---

MERLE: Have you noticed that?

BARBARA: Yeah, but I still hang in there. I enjoy the kids too.

TERRY: As Dulaney told me last winter, he said, "I don't believe Terry you have ever missed a ball game here, have you?"

MERLE: I think Everett's missed one football game since he has been in, even in high school, or basketball either, and he was in Bend.

TERRY: Who is going to be the new coach, do you know?

BARBARA: I don't know.

DOROTHEA: I haven't heard yet.

MERLE: See these little babies I made for a woman that worked at the nursing home, a nurse. She wanted something dressed in jeans and country clothes.

DOROTHEA: That's cute.

MERLE: Her name is Jeans. So then later on I made those for some kids in Seattle. Then later on her daughter got married and she wanted them redressed in wedding clothes for the reception.

DOROTHEA: Oh, aren't those cute.

MERLE: I made those for Ruthie at Ruthie's. I thought that was a cute one though.

TERRY: We sell them for a hundred dollars a pair.

MERLE: And this little girl was Mrs. Jeans's granddaughter. And I made the little doll because she has leukemia. And a little picture (*photograph). She lives in California. I just gave it to her; I didn't charge her for it.

DOROTHEA: Are those something like the cabbage patch dolls?

MERLE: No, not really. They are just little doll babies.

TERRY: Jenny does the detail work on the face.

MERLE: Joe Altnow came down here one day, and I had these, and he just hugged them.

TERRY: See she paints; she paints the eyes and the mouth and everything.

DOROTHEA: What do you use for the body?

MERLE: He got a big grand sweepstake down at the fair, the boy did.

DOROTHEA: What do you use for the body?

MERLE: Call fabric, velour.

DOROTHEA: Oh, do you.

MERLE: Flesh colored velour. It stretches; it's easy to work with. She's ---

TERRY: We've had this one at the Pine Room; don't know whether you've seen them over there or not.

MERLE: I took some of them over, but they smell with smoke so bad ---

TERRY: You know we take all of our, we just give that to the Pine Room over there, you know.

MERLE: Don't give them; we just give them flowers and things in the summer. It helps, because tourists come in there and they'll find ---

TERRY: --- they find us. And we'll all go over there and they find us a dinner some time. We don't, when we go to check out, we don't have no check out.

MERLE: Marcie will say, they look so surprised when they find out something will grow in Burns.

BARBARA: That's nice. You do a lovely job.

MERLE: My sister gave me an old kid leather coat, and I put it in the washer and washed it. And it washed real good. And I make the little shoes out of that, the girls.

BARBARA: Very nice.

MERLE: That was Florence Krueger's old, old doll. The kids had about torn it up, the grandchildren. And she brought it down here and we straightened her legs all out, and her arms, and I dressed her again for her. So, she didn't let the grandkids have it any more.

BARBARA: Did you meet Barbara Shrode when she lived in town? She did the porcelain doll making.

MERLE: I didn't. I knew her, but I didn't ever get to go down. I knew a lot of people who did go, you know. I knew that.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MERLE: These are some of Jenny's little wooden ones.

DOROTHEA: Oh.

TERRY: Now this is some of our wood ones.

MERLE: Some of those to Jackie ...

TERRY: Some of these we have sold.

MERLE: Well, these two went together, these two. They are just wood, made out of wood.

DOROTHEA: Those are good photographs too. Well, I think what we are going to do now is thank you for your interview. I have a paper here I need to have you sign. And we're going to get with you and do a little bit of videoing. As you can see the blinking light is going, and that means that our tape is running out.

TERRY: Now.

DOROTHEA: So, our time is running out also. And we do want to get a video of you and some of the things that you have done out in your yard. Maybe Janice will join us, and we can get a picture of her with you.

TERRY: Oh, no, I don't want no picture.

DOROTHEA: Well, we're going to do a video so that when we put this in the library, it also goes

with the video. And they can see some of the work that you have done.

MERLE: Somebody came around here and they had a player.

TERRY: Well, not me in it though.

DOROTHEA: Well, just a short one.

TERRY: Well, it might have to be.

DOROTHEA: It won't be very big. But we want to thank you a lot. And we'll turn this machine off.

(END OF TAPE)

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