

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #25 - Side A

Subject: Lafe Comegys

Place: Wilsonville, Oregon

Date: December 26, 1991

Interviewer: Edward Gray

EDWARD GRAY: This is Ed Gray with Lafe Comegys in Wilsonville, Oregon on 12-26-91. Okay, you can cuss if you want to Lafe, I don't write cuss words in books. Go ahead. Dobkins came into the garage in Burns.

LAFE COMEGYS: Yeah, he rushed into town there, I think he'd gotten into a skirmish with somebody, shot them, or he got shot at or something. I can't just recall.

EDWARD: Do you remember seeing him coming into the garage?

LAFE: Yeah, oh yeah. He used to come in there. I worked in the garage, he come in there.

EDWARD: Was he mad?

LAFE: No, he was just kind of shook up. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Did you ever see Frank Dobkins? Did he have a short fuse, or temper?

LAFE: I couldn't tell you that.

EDWARD: Well you see Dobkins and Hutton didn't get along, see.

LAFE: No, no they weren't very friendly.

EDWARD: No, they didn't care for one another too well. And Hutton, I don't know whether he cared for anybody too well. What do you know about Link Hutton?

LAFE: He used to come into the garage there where I worked. I used to see him quite

often. He always reminded me of, what was his name, used to be --- well was in Congress, he was a ---

EDWARD: Wayne Morris?

LAFE: Wayne Morris. He looked just like Wayne Morris.

EDWARD: What kind of personality did old Link Hutton have?

LAFE: Oh he was, he was a real good person.

EDWARD: Now you remember he's dead.

LAFE: Yeah. No, he was friendly to everybody as far as I can remember.

EDWARD: Did he have a new car most, all the time you saw him?

LAFE: Oh yeah, he always bought cars then. Frank Dibble was another one out there. They went to Portland and bought Cadillac's. My Uncle Sid he always had a Cadillac.

EDWARD: What garage did you work in, in Burns?

LAFE: Oh I worked in the Ford Garage there the last time I worked there. Then I worked with Earl Hagey, he sold Chevrolets there.

EDWARD: What years, Lathe?

LAFE: Oh, that was in the '20's.

EDWARD: In the 20's?

LAFE: Yeah, early '20's.

EDWARD: You were born in 1904?

LAFE: 1904. Yeah I started working in the garages when I was 16 years old.

EDWARD: Did Link Hutton buy Lincolns and Fords, do you recall?

LAFE: No, he was a, they all bought Cadillac's out there. I think old Lincoln, Link, the last time I saw him he was driving a Buick, if I remember right.

EDWARD: He didn't die until 1950.

LAFE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Born in 1872.

LAFE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I don't know how he lived that long. I thought they'd find him in a gopher hole out there somewhere. Somebody --- why were people afraid of Link Hutton?

LAFE: I don't know. He was a pretty powerful man, I guess.

EDWARD: Oh he wasn't much bigger than a mosquito, you know, I mean he wasn't too big.

LAFE: No, no, he was a small man.

EDWARD: Only about 5' 8" maybe, 130 pounds.

LAFE: Yeah, that's about right.

WOMAN: I heard he carried a gun though, that made him pretty big.

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

LAFE: I never did see any shooting. I've heard about them shooting people out there, but I never seen any.

EDWARD: Believe me they did.

LAFE: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: Five of them.

LAFE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh, hit it kind of backwards here. What about old R. B. Jackson? Know much of anything about him?

LAFE: No, no, not familiar with him.

EDWARD: Well he was found dead in his bedroom there on Wagontire in 1938. Do you know who found him?

LAFE: No.

EDWARD: Take a guess.

LAFE: Link Hutton?

EDWARD: Yeah. Amazing, isn't it?

LAFE: Yes it is. That was pretty rough country out there.

EDWARD: Yeah, it's true. Link Hutton ---

LAFE: It is pretty well isolated, you know.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LAFE: They had to go to Burns or Lakeview.

EDWARD: I guess if you wanted to kill somebody, that's where you took them was Wagontire, I guess.

WOMAN: Have you been out to Wagontire lately?

LAFE: I don't think they had many trials over there either.

EDWARD: Yeah, spent the whole summer out there.

LAFE: I can't remember them having many trials.

EDWARD: Well if they did, they didn't last long, you know, two or three days.

LAFE: Same way when Pete French was killed, you know. My dad was there at that time, when Pete French was killed.

EDWARD: Fay.

LAFE: Fay, yeah.

EDWARD: We'll back up here a little farther, because I want to try to talk a little bit about the Comegys, particularly Charles. Charles was your great uncle?

LAFE: Uncle, he's my uncle.

EDWARD: And Nimrod, of course Nimrod would be your great ---

LAFE: Just grandfather.

EDWARD: Grandfather, that's right. Why did they choose to purchase land on Wagontire, do you have any idea?

LA FE: Well I don't know exactly. But all that land was open and available, you know, at that time. They lived in Silver Lake and they just kind of went west there.

EDWARD: Did they have cattle?

LA FE: Yeah, they raised cattle.

EDWARD: Do you think that they got that land on Lost Creek and on the east side of Wagontire Mountain for summer graze or something?

LA FE: Yeah, evidently, uh huh.

EDWARD: Did they have a lot of cattle?

LA FE: No, not a great big amount.

EDWARD: A hundred head?

LA FE: Well, possibly, yeah, possibly a hundred head.

WOMAN: Well Pete French is the one that had the most cattle.

LA FE: Oh yeah, he was a big operator.

WOMAN: I mean he was a big operator around there.

EDWARD: But he was down southeast of ---

WOMAN: Yeah, he was down around Burns.

EDWARD: --- this area. See Bill Brown never did have any cattle.

LA FE: No, he raised horses, and then sheep.

EDWARD: What did Nimrod --- did you ever meet Nimrod?

LA FE: No, he died when I was about a year or two years old.

EDWARD: Okay. You met Charles?

LA FE: Oh yeah, yeah I knew him all my life, until he died.

EDWARD: Did he ever mention anything to you that you recall about Bill getting in a gunfight with a man and killing him?

LA FE: Bill Brown?

EDWARD: Yeah.

LAFE: No, I can't recall that.

EDWARD: He did.

LAFE: Yeah, I wouldn't be a bit surprised.

WOMAN: These people that killed one another, I guess they didn't talk much about it.

EDWARD: Huh uh.

LAFE: He raised a lot of horses out there. And he sold horses to the U. S. Government there in World War I.

EDWARD: What did Charles tell you about Bill Brown and his horses?

LAFE: Nothing, as I can remember. My dad told me more about Bill Brown.

EDWARD: Okay, what did Fay ---

LAFE: Raising horses. And then later years when I knew him he was in the sheep business, Bill Brown.

EDWARD: What did Fay, you dad, tell you about Bill Brown?

LAFE: Oh, let's see, one story I can think of he said Bill would go out on the range he'd take a pocket full of raisins with him, and he ate raisins. He'd be gone four or five days.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's true, yeah I remember ---

LAFE: You heard that story.

EDWARD: Yeah, dried prunes and things like that.

WOMAN: Uh huh, oh yeah they used to do that.

EDWARD: But he had camps scattered all over that country.

LAFE: Oh yeah, all over the desert, yeah. He run that whole desert out there at one time, I know.

EDWARD: What did your father, Fay, tell you about his sheep, anything you ---

LAFE: Nothing about his sheep, no. See my dad only worked for him a short time as the

way I recall it?

EDWARD: Do you remember what he did for Bill? Was he a buckaroo or a, just a hired hand?

LAFE: Just a hired hand I guess. I don't think he ---

EDWARD: When was your dad --- before I forget here, when was your dad born?

LAFE: He was born, let's see, I got it in this other book.

EDWARD: It's F A Y E, isn't it?

LAFE: F A Y.

EDWARD: F A Y.

LAFE: They got it, they got it Fayette. My dad was born in 1877.

EDWARD: '77. And Charlie, was Sidney older?

LAFE: No, he was the youngest.

EDWARD: Charlie, we have Charlie --- Charlie's wife was Nora?

LAFE: Yeah, Charlie was born in 1866, you got that.

EDWARD: 1866. Sidney, Sidney, I got a deal in the books in here, in a paper he run for sheriff of Harney County in 1910.

WOMAN: Is that right?

EDWARD: Yeah. Don't have Sidney, huh?

LAFE: Oh, I thought I had that written down, but I don't have it. Well, let's see here, I'll find it here in a minute.

EDWARD: There is Nora.

LAFE: Charles was born in 1866, Sidney in 1879.

EDWARD: Sidney, 1879.

LAFE: My dad Fay was born in 1877.

EDWARD: Okay.

LA FE: And Anna 1872, and Lucinda was born in 1868.

EDWARD: Now who is that?

LA FE: She was the one that burnt up in the Silver Lake Fire.

EDWARD: Oh.

LA FE: She married Gus Schroder.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. They spelled that wrong, I think. I don't think it has an E in it.

LA FE: E R --- S C H R O ---

EDWARD: I think it is just R O D E R, Lafe.

LA FE: I believe you're right.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LA FE: Yeah, Charles Comegys is 1866, son of Nimrod and Sarilda, they got that wrong, Sarilda.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LA FE: Yeah, children of Charles Comegys, Sidney Comegys. They got our name wrong there again.

EDWARD: Sidney was '79 to '55.

LA FE: '55, yeah, 1955.

EDWARD: Did your uncles or dad ever mention anything about living on Wagontire?

LA FE: No, I can't recall that.

EDWARD: Because in 1900 the electors report for Harney --- Lake County, Lake County, had Sidney living on Lost Creek, just below Stauffer in 1900. So I just wondered if they ever mentioned any-thing about them actually living there. Of course that was during the summer, so they might have been herding cattle or something.

LA FE: No, I never heard of ---

WOMAN: Or cutting hay, or something, I don't know. Did they cut hay out there?

LAFAE: No, there was no hay there.

EDWARD: Very little, if any.

WOMAN: I think mostly that was down in Burns, around there.

LAFAE: They couldn't make any hay out there, that was all pastureland.

WOMAN: All sagebrush, isn't it?

LAFAE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Do you know if Sarilda and Nimrod ever built a cabin on Wagontire Mountain?

LAFAE: No, I don't know if they ever did. They must have though, they lived out there.

EDWARD: Nimrod and --- yeah they did.

LAFAE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And where they lived, I think they planted the apple trees there, because they're still there.

LAFAE: Yeah.

EDWARD: There is like six of them, apple trees. And Eglis came about the same time, and they planted apple trees.

LAFAE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And I'll be darned if, they're still there.

LAFAE: Still there.

WOMAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Out there --- nowhere.

WOMAN: Nothing there at all, I suppose, don't even know that there was a house there.

EDWARD: There is not much.

LAFAE: No, it's all range country.

WOMAN: Those people that used to take up those homesteads all around there, my

folks took up a homestead different spots around.

EDWARD: Not too many in this country though, because the Huttons were pretty strong people up there.

LAKE: Yeah, they were top dogs there.

EDWARD: What can you tell me, anything about the Comegys on Wagontire that you recall, anything?

LAKE: No, I'm not very familiar with Wagontire. See I lived around Burns and the South End of the county, Diamond.

EDWARD: Oh, okay, yeah you're quite a ways away.

LAKE: And they were living in Wagontire before I was very big. I think Uncle Charlie though was still out at Wagontire.

EDWARD: Charlie ---

LAKE: He moved into Burns. He must have sold out there and built a house in Burns, because Lloyd went to high school there in Burns.

EDWARD: Did, now you mentioned, did you know Frank Dobkins pretty well?

LAKE: No, no, just knew who he was and that's about all.

EDWARD: Did you know Link Hutton pretty well?

LAKE: Yeah, yeah, I used to see Link quite often. He was in town pretty regular.

EDWARD: Well how did he treat you?

LAKE: Fine, yeah.

EDWARD: Did he ever drink?

LAKE: I suppose he did.

WOMAN: Most all those guys drank.

LAKE: I couldn't say that I ever seen him drunk, but he probably drank.

EDWARD: Well why would you think Link Hutton, you know Link Hutton was married

three times. The last one was Hattie, Hattie May, Hattie May Parker Tyler Hutton.

LA FE: No, I didn't know --- they had one daughter Veva Hutton.

EDWARD: Right. What do you know about her?

LA FE: Well she was older than I, I don't recall her. I think she went to school there in Burns.

EDWARD: She was born the same year you were.

LA FE: She was?

WOMAN: Gosh, you should know her.

LA FE: Well Lloyd, my cousin, he was older than I and he knew all the Huttons. But he's been dead for several years. His wife lives here in West Linn yet, but she don't know anything about the Wagontire deal.

EDWARD: Well do you think, you know Link Hutton shot and killed Harold Bradley. Was he a jealous guy, or what --- I mean not too many people do things like that.

LA FE: Oh, he was pretty hot headed, I believe.

EDWARD: People were scared of Link Hutton, you know that.

LA FE: Yeah.

WOMAN: Did you know him?

LA FE: Yeah, I knew him.

WOMAN: Oh, you did?

LA FE: Yeah.

EDWARD: I don't know why they'd be scared of a little runt.

LA FE: Well he was a big talker, I guess.

EDWARD: Must have been.

LA FE: Yeah, as far as I can remember, he was.

EDWARD: And I've talked to a lot of members of the Hutton family. And all they ever say

is kind of cute, they just say, "Ed, please don't say too many bad things about ---"

(Laughter)

LAFE: Well those people that lived out there probably know a lot of bad things about him.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LAFE: But friends of his, I don't suppose talked against him very much.

EDWARD: No. Do you recall Austa Carlon?

LAFE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Well she is still kicking, you know.

LAFE: Yeah.

EDWARD: She is quite a character.

LAFE: She is a sister to Ted Graves.

EDWARD: Right, right.

LAFE: I think Ted just died recently.

EDWARD: Yeah ---

WOMAN: Do they go to the Pioneer?

EDWARD: Oh yeah.

LAFE: Pioneer reunion?

WOMAN: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I know Austa does. She is my main girl in Burns.

LAFE: She had the rock deal out there by the school.

WOMAN: Oh, does she still have it?

LAFE: No, I don't think so.

EDWARD: No.

LAFE: No, she sold that out.

WOMAN: Because that rock thing is still there.

LA FE: Yeah, but somebody else ---

WOMAN: Somebody else has it.

EDWARD: Yeah, Austa is the one that told me, when I interviewed her this summer, she is the first one that told me who the guy was that run off with Link Hutton's wife.

LA FE: Oh, is that right?

EDWARD: Yeah. And she was right.

LA FE: Well she is pretty much up in years.

EDWARD: 86, yeah, 86. And her husband Homer was the guy that was with Frank Dobkins when he was shot and killed in 1939.

LA FE: Yeah, I remember seeing him.

EDWARD: Where were you in 1939? Were you still in Burns?

LA FE: '39, no I was here.

EDWARD: Oh, you were here.

LA FE: No, I was ---

EDWARD: How did you end up here in Wilsonville?

LA FE: How did I end up here?

WOMAN: Find a lot, it was hard to find then.

LA FE: I worked here in Portland, had this mobile home down around a trailer court. I was getting ready to retire, so I bought a lot here and I moved out here and we've been here ever since.

WOMAN: And we thought we were out in the country, and we were out in the country. Now, it is horrible. I'm thinking about going out to Wagontire, moving out there.

EDWARD: I know it. There isn't a soul there anymore.

WOMAN: Well, that would be fine for me.

EDWARD: Oh, it's horrible.

LA FE: We sold quite a little bit across the street here, where all these houses are now. I owned that land there. He was an old railroad man, and he talked about selling out. He didn't know where he'd he go unless he went to Wagontire. He thought if he got in Wagontire he was out of the world.

EDWARD: Well yeah, you are.

WOMAN: Almost.

LA FE: I told him hell I knew a place better than Wagontire, out to Rome.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, yeah.

LA FE: That is clear, farther out.

WOMAN: That's just about as bad.

EDWARD: What about America, what do you know about America?

LA FE: Well she used to come into the garage there in later years. And she bought a car there from a Studebaker outfit I was working for.

EDWARD: Studebaker.

LA FE: And it was only a two-door sedan, you know. And I don't know, she had an accident with it and done a little damage to the body, and we repaired it. And then she bought a four-door sedan. So she took the sedan home and put it in the garage out there at Hines, and took her husband for a ride in it the next day or two. And he never knew the difference in the car. And finally she had to ask him if he didn't see any difference in the car he was riding in.

EDWARD: That was James Sutherland.

LA FE: Yeah. Well she was a nice person, yeah a very nice person.

EDWARD: Did she ever talk about --- well --- I've got to back up. When did you leave Burns?

LA FE: Well the first time, or the last time?

EDWARD: Oh, you left ---

WOMAN: Or the third time.

EDWARD: You left and then went back?

LA FE: Yeah, I left there in 1929 or 1930, and I came to Portland. I stayed around here for 17 years before I ever went back.

EDWARD: So you went back in about '48?

LA FE: Yeah, '47, '47 I think it was.

EDWARD: Because James Sutherland died in 1955. So you must have been there ---

LA FE: Uh huh. Yeah, he was working for Hughets out there at that time. They was running horses off the desert. Yeah, he was a nice man.

EDWARD: America ---

LA FE: Did you know her?

EDWARD: No.

LA FE: You never met her?

EDWARD: She died in 1964. She was almost 90 years old.

LA FE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Well did she have, was she a short lady, tall? I don't know that.

LA FE: No, she wasn't very tall I don't think, but I can't remember.

EDWARD: Thin or heavy?

LA FE: Yeah, she was thin, skinny.

EDWARD: Probably burnt to a crisp.

LA FE: Yeah.

EDWARD: Shriveled up.

WOMAN: Most of them are.

LA FE: She lived out there on the desert all of her life, you know, until they moved to

Hines.

WOMAN: Riding horseback.

EDWARD: Yeah, shriveled up little thing.

LAFE: Yeah, she was a very nice person. I always thought a lot of her.

EDWARD: Was she a strong lady or --- people they can always remember her for some reason. A lot of charisma or something?

LAFE: Oh yeah, she was well liked. I can remember my mother talking about her years ago. She knew her very well.

EDWARD: Well America drove a --- did she ever mention the mail route? She drove mail route on Wagontire for years.

LAFE: Yeah, I guess she did.

EDWARD: I don't know whether she drove one of those old Studebakers or not. She drove something out there.

LAFE: Maybe it was a horse and buggy.

EDWARD: Yeah, probably did that too.

LAFE: Yeah, no doubt it was a horse and buggy if she had a mail route out there.

EDWARD: Because she was, they came there in 1884, and of course they didn't have many people. Bill Brown was there, Comegys. That's what I was trying to figure out, when in the world Nimrod and Sarilda came there. Eglis were there.

LAFE: Well they must have come up Silver Lake across there. Because they were originally around Eugene, in this area. And then they started moving east.

WOMAN: Well where was your dad born? Was he born in ---

LAFE: He was born in Lake County, in Summer Lake.

WOMAN: Oh, he was born there.

LAFE: Just out of Paisley.

WOMAN: Well who was born around Salem? Was it ---

LAFE: My mother was born in Salem.

WOMAN: Oh, it's your mother that was born in Salem.

EDWARD: Fay was born in 1877, down there in the Summer Lake area.

LAFE: Yeah, to Wither's Ranch out of Paisley.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, that's huge. Yeah, that's huge.

LAFE: You've been down there?

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

LAFE: I believe you've been around this country more than I have. (Laughter)

EDWARD: I drove 7,288 miles this summer in Oregon. Back and forth to Wagontire, and Burns, and John Day.

LAFE: Did you ever talk to Marcus Haines in person?

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah. He remembers Frank Dobkins real well.

LAFE: Yeah.

WOMAN: He should remember quite a few.

LAFE: He is two years younger than I am.

EDWARD: Yeah, he is ---

WOMAN: He's only a year, isn't he, a year younger?

LAFE: I think he is about two.

WOMAN: Oh is he that ---

EDWARD: He's still there in Burns.

WOMAN: Well he is the same age as Al then, wasn't he?

LAFE: Just about, yeah.

WOMAN: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah, I talked to, oh boy, Shelby Petersen.

LAFE: Yeah.

EDWARD: He is 89.

LAFE: Is he still alive?

EDWARD: Yeah.

LAFE: His father was the Oliver that shot Pete French.

EDWARD: Right, right, yeah. Good for that guy. Bill Brown never did that kind of stuff like Peter French and Hanley, Bill Hanley did. Bill Brown bought property, just like he bought from Charles.

LAFE: Yeah.

EDWARD: You uncle, yeah.

LAFE: My uncle, yeah.

EDWARD: See Bill Brown bought quite a bit of property from the Comegys.

WOMAN: Oh.

LAFE: Well Pete French he had people take up homesteads out there, and then they'd sell them to him.

EDWARD: Oh yeah, or he would run them out. He did that too, you know.

LAFE: But everybody, my dad and my folks liked Pete French very well.

EDWARD: Boy.

LAFE: Nimrod worked for Pete French there for years.

WOMAN: He was a carpenter, wasn't he?

LAFE: Yeah.

WOMAN: Yeah.

LAFE: But he didn't get along with the Springers. They lived down by the bird refuge there now, the Sod House.

EDWARD: Yeah, I've heard that.

LAFE: He wanted that land that Springers had right there on the lake. And they had a lawsuit over it.

EDWARD: A lot of lawsuits.

LAFE: Yeah, over land.

EDWARD: Dobkins was suing Hutton all the time. See the Huttons left Wagontire in 1946, they sold out. America and --- of course Tom was killed in a car wreck, Tom Hutton. Oh you weren't there then. He was killed in --- he died the same day that his brother Link shot and killed Harold Bradley, same day, December 29th, which is only three days away.

LAFE: I'll be darned.

EDWARD: Oh there is a lot of crazy stuff like that. It's crazy.

LAFE: You're going to make a book of all this?

EDWARD: Oh yeah, yeah.

LAFE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: I don't have any more of my books, or I would have brought you one. They're all gone, I sold them all out. Let's see, America --- anything else, Lafe?

LAFE: No.

EDWARD: About that country that you recall that any of your relatives said?

LAFE: Oh, I can't think of anything right now.

EDWARD: Okay. If you do, would you write them down and send them to me? I sent you a letter, do you remember?

LAFE: Yeah, I still have it there.

EDWARD: Yeah, I know you still got it there.

LAFE: I didn't reply, I was waiting for you to show up.

EDWARD: That's why I came by. What about photos? Do you have any photos yourself

of Sarilda or Charles? Because they played kind of an important role in this. Any at all?

LA FE: No, I don't.

EDWARD: Besides those?

LA FE: This here is the only one I have here.

EDWARD: That's ---

LA FE: My cousin has that picture. I gave it to her, and then she kept it. But when they put this book out, she sent the card up there.

EDWARD: And this is your dad though, isn't it?

LA FE: No, that's the uncle, that's Sid.

EDWARD: That's Sidney, excuse me.

LA FE: And this is Sarilda.

EDWARD: Oh, that's Sarilda?

LA FE: This is my mother here. This was a hired man, Frank Brown.

EDWARD: I don't think I've seen any of old Charles in here.

LA FE: I don't have any pictures of Charles in that.

WOMAN: Well if Charles, isn't that, Charles --- that's not Fay's, I mean --- oh shoot, that lives in Oregon City, or I mean West Linn.

LA FE: Charlie Comegys, yeah.

WOMAN: Is that who you're talking about?

LA FE: Yeah.

WOMAN: Well she ---

LA FE: Lloyd's father.

WOMAN: Wouldn't she, she'd have some pictures.

LA FE: I don't know whether she has or not, really.

EDWARD: Are you familiar with her, do you talk to her much?

LAFE: Oh, occasionally.

WOMAN: We should have called her up and wished her a happy ---

EDWARD: What's her name, Lafe?

LAFE: Fern.

WOMAN: She'll talk a leg off of you. You'll never get away from her.

LAFE: She doesn't know anything about it.

WOMAN: You don't know, she might know more than you think. She has been a schoolteacher.

EDWARD: Oh lord, so am I.

LAFE: She only taught school two years.

EDWARD: Okay, what's her name?

LAFE: Fern.

EDWARD: Fern Comegys?

WOMAN: Yeah.

LAFE: Yeah.

EDWARD: And that's, well it should be in a phone book.

WOMAN: Yeah it is. I've got her number.

LAFE: West Linn.

EDWARD: West Linn. I don't have a Portland phone book.

WOMAN: Well I've got it written down here someplace.

EDWARD: Fern Comegys, and she married Lloyd?

LAFE: Uh huh.

WOMAN: And she might have the pictures of her father-in-law. That would be her father-in-law wouldn't it?

EDWARD: Yeah. Charles W. and Sarilda. Maybe there is just a picture of the two of

them, you know.

WOMAN: I'm supposed to have it in here.

LAFE: I don't even have a picture of my dad.

EDWARD: Oh no.

WOMAN: You don't, do you? Didn't your mother have one?

LAFE: Oh yeah.

WOMAN: You never did get those pictures?

LAFE: Well Raymond, a nephew, was coming down from Alaska, and he is supposed to have a trunk that's got a lot of pictures in it.

WOMAN: Yeah.

LAFE: But he isn't here yet, he is in Seattle someplace.

EDWARD: Oh, is he coming soon or something?

LAFE: Yeah.

WOMAN: Well he's supposed to be down in between now.

LAFE: He's supposed to stop in and see me.

WOMAN: Most any time.

EDWARD: I wonder if there is anything in there of Charles? There could be, huh?

WOMAN: Well there could be, yes.

LAFE: They would be some older pictures, when they were married.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LAFE: When dad and mother were married. They got into an album that is in that trunk up there. And he is going to bring it down.

EDWARD: Oh, I hope he does.

WOMAN: Well we have been wanting those pictures anyway.

LAFE: But I don't know what's left in the trunk.

EDWARD: Yeah, right.

WOMAN: That's the trouble.

LAFE: My brother, he don't pay no attention to it.

EDWARD: Well I run into that all the time.

LAFE: He could care less.

EDWARD: Yeah.

WOMAN: Yeah, here is Fern Comegys.

EDWARD: Okay.

WOMAN: It's 656-4430.

EDWARD: 30, okay. Now how do you say your name, Comegys?

LAFE: Comegys.

EDWARD: Comegys, Comegys.

WOMAN: It's really Comegys. Because the way they ---

LAFE: Comegys some of them call it.

WOMAN: Yeah, or Come Eggs!

EDWARD: Yeah.

WOMAN: None of them --- nobody ---

LAFE: But it's ---

EDWARD: Comegys.

LAFE: It's, it was made in the United States. They came from Holland.

EDWARD: Oh yeah. What did I say, I say Comegys.

LAFE: And Cominguyson, and oh ---

WOMAN: It was a long, great long name and they ---

EDWARD: Oh, they always do that.

WOMAN: They made it into a different name.

EDWARD: They always did that, they always shortened them up.

LAFE: They were ---

WOMAN: Yeah.

LAFE: What did they call the French, or Dutch traders. They went down to African and brought Negroes, boat loads and brought them into the United States and sold them. But they were French traders.

EDWARD: Yeah.

LAFE: Pirates.

EDWARD: Pirates.

WOMAN: Pirates, gee, really.

LAFE: Cominguyson.

EDWARD: I don't blame them.

LAFE: One Comegys lives down in Fresno, he went back to Holland there and he researched it.

WOMAN: Yeah, he researched his name.

LAFE: He went way back into 1600's.

EDWARD: Who was that --- oh, that's Duncan.

LAFE: That's Duncan.

EDWARD: We don't want any of them. Except Sarilda is in there somewhere.

LAFE: Uh huh. Well this is Sarilda and Emma, my grandmother and aunt.

EDWARD: Well I'm pretty sure --- you see the Comegys, Sarilda had that place that ended up being Frank Dobkins place. And everybody said that there was a house, that Comegys built a house there, a cabin.

LAFE: Cabin.

EDWARD: And it burnt down.

WOMAN: Probably burnt down, yeah.

EDWARD: And they called it the Burnt House place, because their cabin burned down.

LAFE: Uh huh.

EDWARD: And so when Dobkins came there, there wasn't anything there. He built a corral, and it's still there, that corral and a little tiny cabin that he lived in. But I was hoping there maybe would be some pictures of Comegys' place over on Wagontire, you know, you never know. Maybe there could be in that ---

LAFE: Oh, there could be, but I ---

EDWARD: You just don't know.

LAFE: I don't know.

EDWARD: I run into ---

(END OF TAPE)

bl