

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #251 - Sides A & B

Subject: Sand Reef With Marcus Haines

Place: Marcus Haines Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: April 29, 1989

Interviewer: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy, and I'm visiting with Marcus Haines, we'll be talking about the Sand Reef. I'm at his home in Burns, Oregon. The date is April 29, 1989.

MARCUS HAINES: Well this is Marcus Haines visiting with Mrs. Purdy here on this 29th day of April, I think, 1889 --- 1989, I'll get it straight here pretty soon. Anyway, we're going to talk about the Sand Reef here, that has separated the lakes here for many years. And there would be a break through, through the --- kicked out, the Sand Reef was opened up in 1881, and it never closed again --- it stayed opened up until this summer, and then it's closed up here now.

But the first record that we have of the Sand Reef was left by Peter Skene Ogden, who was a fur trapper for the Hudson Bay Company. And he came through this country here the fall of 1826. And left his diary, it's in his diary here, he tells about trapping down the Silvie's River and right through by Burns here. And he was wanting to spend the winter; he was down at Pit River in California. So he was heading on down through there, and he tells about on the first day of November at sundown in 1826, he arrived at two bodies of water that were separated by a ridge of sand, an acre in width. And he said these two lakes have no intercourse. The lake on the right is real salty, and the one on

the left is fresh water. He was talking about Malheur Lake.

They spent four days there, and they went back and forth across the Sand Reef looking for something to trap. And then they left and went on into California. He came back the next spring, from that country there, and came through on the west side of Harney Lake, and found that the lakes were joined up. And the stench was terrible; you could smell it for miles. And what happened, the lake, Malheur Lake was full of fish in those days, and when the lake broke they went into this salty water and killed them by the thousands. And then they washed out and decayed on the banks of the, of Harney Lake. Harney Lake being twelve feet lower than Malheur, really pulled the water through there, fish and all you see. That's what happened there.

So we go on here and pretty soon the lake closes up again. The Sand Reef closes up again. And these fellows come through here in, on '57. and tell about crossing on the Sand Reef. And then along in the '60's, and then about '64 they find that the Sand Reef is washed out again. Captain Currey finds that, and it was washed out for some time. But then it closes up again.

And then of course the first white man came in this country to stay in 1872, that's the year that Pete French came in here to the "P" Ranch, and the Smyth's came to the country, the Rye Smyth's came to the country here in 1872, and settled out here where the mill is now, at the hot springs. And then two years later they moved to Happy Valley above Diamond.

And at that time then, the people that was traveling from the "P" Ranch going through to Fort Harney, there wasn't any Burns here at that time, but Fort Harney was there. They would travel on the Sand Reef rather than go clear out around the ends of the lake. And it was quite a popular route through there, since there was no bridge at The

Narrows until 1892.

And in 1881, a fellow by the name of Mart Brenton claims that he tracked his horses down from Burns, going back to the "P" Ranch where they were raised. In the spring of the year, like horses will do, and he tracked them down to the Sand Reef and met a fellow there that was going on to the "P" Ranch. And he asked him to put his horses in the field, and he would come and get them later. And he had his chores to do and stuff here at Burns, so on and so forth, and he said the water was just ready to go over the top of the Sand Reef into Harney Lake. So Mart took his toe of his boot and kicked out a little stream across there, and the next time they come by that sand had all washed out and there was no more going through. Then old Mart kept still about that, because that was a pretty unpopular thing to do at that time, stop that traffic through there. And then to goes to the "P" Ranch from the Burns country, they had to go to the Double O, get around the end of the lake or clear out by Crane, you see. And it was just a big loop like this, you see, to go through.

And then they built the store --- the bridge at The Narrows in 1892, and then the travel went through there. And the Reef didn't close up again after that. We've often wondered about it. He would kind of ... and then the early days the people have, records of people going down there with a team and Fresno and cleaning the sand out. It probably would have closed up maybe if it hadn't of been cleaned out and that.

And then here in '85 when the lake got so high, why it --- the lakes filled up here and washed out probably three-quarters of a mile of the Sand Reef. At least that, it's all gone. And then this summer here, in '89, why the Sand Reef closed up. It closed up the old channel and all, and it's closed up, it was here two weeks ago. We're going to go down and see some more about it, and get some pictures of it here as soon as the

weather permits. And that's the story on the Sand Reef Dorothy.

DOROTHEA: ... one side is salt, and one side is fresh water.

MARCUS: Yes, because there is no outlet from Harney Lake. It just sits in there and evaporates. And when it's dry, there is an alkali crust on it about an inch thick. In fact I have pictures here, I could show you of it. And as soon as that stuff dissolves, why it's just terrible, you can't drink it at all. And that's the reason, because over the years it's just --- it just evaporates ... dry for so long, and everything would evaporate, you see. And then in come this water, and in the meantime the sand was blowing out of that lake there, and building up this Sand Reef. And that's the story, that's the reason that the Sand Reef was built there.

The prevailing winds in our country here, is out of the southwest. And there would be times that --- I run cattle down in that country there for thirty years, and went up on Jack Mountain there to the south of the lake and we got caught down there in dust storms, and the dust coming off of Harney Lake, you couldn't see hardly. And the old cows, that dust blowing in their faces, they just cough and blow to beat the band, and you did too, right along with them.

DOROTHEA: ... (Unrelated conversation) Well, is there any other things that you can tell us about how long that it was closed, and how long it was covered up with water. Give some of the history maybe.

MARCUS: Well in the early, see there was, during the '30's there, the water never went from Malheur Lake into Harney Lake. It has to, the water has to get up to about 4093 foot contour before it will run into the channel down through there, into Harney Lake. And the lake would never get high enough, you see there was, there for years the water never got down to Lawen out of the Silvies River here during the '30's there. And I think it was

around twelve years there that the water never went into Harney Lake. And the water it got was --- come from the hot springs over there at Double O, and from Silver Creek. You see Silver Creek drops, dumps in, eventually dumps into Harney Lake on the west side there. And --- but it's --- we surveyed that lake bed in 1931, when the government was having a trial between the state, between the State of Oregon and the government over the ownership of the lake. And they would dump the crew off; they had to run levels across Harney Lake there. They dumped the crew off, be four of us, on the north side, and we'd walk across the lake and set stakes every twenty --- change in elevation, and then they'd pick us up on the other side that afternoon. And you go for miles out there, and there wouldn't be a tenth of a foot difference in the elevation, it was that flat, and all, it --- blowed out and leveled off there from wave action.

And that --- it was quite a while after that, because it took a lot of water to fill that lake. Because the boundary, around Harney Lake, encloses 32,000 acres. And it's just like a bowl, it's flat out there and it just comes up like --- especially on the west side --- or the south side. The engineers that, the instrument man the first time he run across there, gosh he had fifteen or twenty feet to pick up to get up on the meander line to check, you know, his elevation. And he just knew he had made a mistake there. And it was a little different situation on the north, you see, when we went in, he took --- started with his reading there. And he couldn't believe, he just come up and check out right just almost on the tenth of a foot there, across that lake. They were accurate surveyors. They knew what they were doing. But he --- I was with him, I had to pack stakes enough across there, and lunches, and the water. I was the pack mule, I remember it quite well. And hot, gee whiz it was right in July, we come --- we walked across there on the 6th of July. We'd been in Frenchglen, free to have some celebrations up there along about that time.

And we'd dance all night, and rodeo in the morning, or play ball in the morning, baseball, and then rodeo in the afternoon. (Laughter) Two or three days of that and --- really laid you out. We just got home in time to eat breakfast and go to work that morning.

And over on the south side there, lots of rattlesnakes. And we'd look for arrowheads; there was lots of arrowheads too. But we were afraid to lay down, but we just told the rattlesnakes to move over, and stuck our heads under the shade of a greasewood and went to sleep. (Laughter) ... wouldn't have known, all three of us in that bunch.

But --- I have never figured this out, the water would go into Mud Lake from Harney, went in there first and it would fill up Mud Lake. And then it would break out into a channel, had two channels went out to the east --- south end of Mud Lake. And then the other one went out on the south side. And they come down here and come together just below where Larry Dunn lived there. And then this big ditch, big dry ditch would cut down through there, about oh, three or four miles --- three miles anyway, down to the Sand Reef. And I suppose that thing is probably now is full, or a lot of it is full anyway from the sediment that was being stirred up. It is real muddy; the lake has been real muddy all this time. And why it has settled down and cut that channel --- you couldn't cross it in a car in lots of places, it was just too deep. And when the --- there was water in there, you wanted to stay out of there, it was quick sand in the bottom of the thing. You get a horse down real quick. But that has always had me puzzled, and nobody has ever figured it out either, to my knowledge there. Of course the water would run from Mud Lake into Harney Lake there--- well you saw the picture there, how deep it was.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And it was that way back clear up to Harney Lake, up there for about three

miles. Just cut that out there.

DOROTHEA: Of course if I knew where I was talking about, by sight, then I would know more about what to ask.

MARCUS: Sure.

DOROTHEA: But I'm a Harney Countian that has never been in that area.

MARCUS: Well, we'll go down there. ... (Unrelated conversation) So we'll try and get down there next week anyway. What's worrying me is, if it doesn't wash out before we can get down there.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Because the lake is coming up to beat the band.

DOROTHEA: Is the water coming up down there pretty bad too, because of all the rain?

MARCUS: Yes. Well, it's so far across there, two or three hundred yards. It looks like that Harney Lake is quite a little lower than Malheur just judging, that's what Donovan and I decided when we were in there. But you don't know, it's too far.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARCUS: And then the other day we had that 51 mile an hour wind, if that was down there and hitting Harney Lake, it could raise that lake, that end of the lake there a foot or two easy, you know.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARCUS: And it could wash that out from that side, this time instead of the other way.

DOROTHEA: From Harney into Malheur, you mean?

MARCUS: Yeah, uh huh. You just don't know. The lake has raised, I measured it there at the bridge at The Narrows, it's got the concrete bridge in there and all, and it's down to the water now, and the other day when we were, went down there it was about as calm a

day as ever saw. There wasn't a ripple on the lake. And it measured the same depth as I measured off the bridge the 8th of July of last year. And that showed that the lake had come up fourteen inches since then.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARCUS: And so ---

DOROTHEA: Well do you think that this water is going to stay down now again, since it's gone down a little? Or do you think that we are going to have that ---

MARCUS: Oh, I wouldn't --- I know this, if I still owned my ranch, and I was twenty years younger, nobody would buy it from me. There is going to be some of the finest soil down there with all this sediment. And over the years the meadows had gone to nothing there. I redone a 130 acres of my meadow and put it into alfalfa because it wasn't producing anything.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And it's --- over the years, the knolls have come up, and they are just like the top of my head, the grass right around the edge, but nothing on top. And the sloughs are washed out and they are, were flags and tules, they have lost the sod. This thing has leveled off there now, and the alkali has washed out. Now when I was a kid, we had there at home there, you mowed with a team, and the team turned a corner, and they disappeared from you. The grass was that high, you wouldn't see them. And nothing. Then this Mrs. Dunn that owned the property that I bought from the estate in 1948, bought that piece of property from what would be the Frenchglen outfit in 1916, and they bought 283 acres, and there was 60 acres up on the hill there. So there was just about 200 acres that was in production there. And the company bought the hay back from them, for payment, for five dollars a ton there. And she said the first year they sold 503 tons of hay

off of that 200 acres there. And she said the hay paid for the ranch there. They paid \$60 an acre for the property, in five years, in selling the hay back to them. Well that's the place I got, and I couldn't get a hundred acres --- ton of hay off the same thing when --- by the time I bought it there you see. And it just --- the ground was worn out. I leveled it there. It cost money to do that, and the strange thing of it was, I was going to grain there, first. And on these knolls they cut off, just a little straggly grain about like this, and that was about the size of it. And the fill would really produce for you. Went into alfalfa, and it was just the opposite then. These knolls where the cut off, you got the alfalfa was just come off of there, you couldn't believe, you know. But I had put the water over the top of it, and flushed that out and got it down a little bit.

DOROTHEA: Drained all that minerals and stuff out of it.

MARCUS: Yeah. So this has all been done there. It's under water again this year, you see. You haven't been down in the Sod House country, have you?

DOROTHEA: Not for a long time.

MARCUS: Yeah. Well, when we go down, we'll drive through over to the Refuge there. They got the Sod House Lane opened now. We can drive through there, and show you the destruction that has taken place there.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

MARCUS: And --- but ---

DOROTHEA: Well I know that when my father first came to the area, I know that it was separated there. And that was pretty good ground. But they say that this water has ruined a lot of it. Do you think so? Ruined the ground?

MARCUS: No, no, it's making the ground.

DOROTHEA: It's making the ground better.

MARCUS: You bet. Yeah, you bet.

DOROTHEA: Well this was my belief too. But I'm not an old timer that knows enough about this old stuff so ---

MARCUS: Well, that's the way this thing started, you know. At one time it ran out down through Virginia Valley and into the south part of the Malheur River. The lake drained out through there. And it closed up there. They had that earthquake or something and then the lava from the lava beds there flowed through there and shut that stream off there. You get down there where that schoolhouse is, well where that road went down from Virginia Valley --- or from Anderson Valley I was showing you there ---

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: --- when Currey came over. See that --- there is a 32 foot cut right there to get the water to run through there, where it used to run by itself. Then it goes on down to the west there

--- to the east there for oh, three or four miles, three miles such a matter. And drops right off into this lava tube here. And then it goes on down. And it formed the Malheur Cave there, and then went on and into the south fork and on down where Peterson's lived, and Henrietta Venator and all those folks lived right in that big canyon there. And --- but the water now, when they got through surveying there, find that up here where this big cut is, there is two drainages that come in from the north here. And the one on the west, the water runs back into Malheur Lake. And the one on the right, and the one on the left, or on the east side, the water goes on down the river there. It's just kind of unbelievable. But anyway, it's --- and then you read how they wintered these cattle on the Malheur Lake, these people came in here first time and it was just loaded with grass.

DOROTHEA: ...

MARCUS: Yeah. And it certainly wasn't a marsh at that time. It was --- for many, many years there, there was homes all over Malheur Lake. They come down there and spent the winter there. People come down and mow hay and stack it. And then bring their cattle, a lot of them come up here in the Harney country during the spring and summer they'd move out and they'd have summer range, spring and summer range up in here. And so then the government got it, oh yeah, it was turned over to the government there a little while, you know what happens then.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARCUS: And it was truly a marsh alright, it was just flags and tules, and so thick that they didn't have a bird in there anyplace. People in the spring of the year, would burn these flags and tules off, and clean up their ground, and the birds would come in there by the millions.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I can remember just the difference between say the Malheur Bird Refuge when I was a kid, and now.

MARCUS: Oh, lord, yes.

DOROTHEA: When we'd have company, that's one place we would take them, was to the bird refuge.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Gee, it was so gorgeous down there, and all the birds and all. And that was one of the things I was interested in, was birds.

MARCUS: Oh its --- I'm just ashamed to take anybody down there anymore. We, well the same day we took this picture, I just got them back yesterday, of the Sand Reef down there. Well we come back and went into the refuge, and then went up through the --- through the central, Buena Vista. And we never saw a bird ---

DOROTHEA: No, you don't.

MARCUS: --- on our trip up through there. And you're ashamed to take people up in there anymore. They wanted me to do some guiding up on this festival here, but I'm ashamed to take anybody up there. But ---

DOROTHEA: Well I think probably you can find more birds out in just these closer fields, in and around the Burns area than you are going to find down there.

MARCUS: Well they are all up here.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, they all come up. We've had some of the strangest birds, I've never seen before. They look like a snipe, but they're black with red legs and a big old beak on them. I'm not too sure what they're called.

MARCUS: Uh huh. They are ibis.

DOROTHEA: Is that what it is?

MARCUS: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Gee, there are just lots and lots of them come up there every spring.

MARCUS: Yeah, yeah. And my gosh, across from Buchanan there, you know, the birds have been in there by the thousands.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And we've been back and forth there, to visit the kids two or three times this spring, and we saw one bunch of pintails, just the other side of the Sand Reef. And then we came back one day from Drewsey, and we turned off and went down Red Barn Lane, out the airport road there, and there was a bunch of geese, Canada geese out in the field there, on the left. And that's the size of the birds we've seen there this year.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Yeah, we haven't had the sandhill cranes we usually do either. I don't know what happened to them, but ---MARCUS: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: They usually come out and take over our field, but we haven't had them this year.

MARCUS: Yeah, they ---

DOROTHEA: We've got several pairs of geese nesting there. But---

MARCUS: Uh huh. Well, I'll take it back on this going out; we saw the first snow geese out here on Pat Culp's property that we've seen all spring. The only ones we saw all spring. We come back that evening, and they were gone. But lots of them in there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARCUS: But the old McGee place down here generally is the place for the snow geese, you know.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: And we never did see any geese down there. Didn't see any birds down there for that matter. Ducks, or anything else.

DOROTHEA: Well I think probably that's about all we can talk about on this. This will give Barbara and I something to work with. And so we can get some kind of a thing set up. I'd like to come back, and just for my own self, do a video tape of your pictures, so that I can look through this and kind of educate myself about that area down there. And we could have you do a talk as you're showing the pictures. So it would be recorded. It's real interesting. I'm sure that I could get educated a little bit on this. I've read and read, but I'm not ---

MARCUS: Well, you just pretty near have to see this thing here, you know ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah.

MARCUS: --- to appreciate it.

DOROTHEA: Well, you've got quite a system set up there. It's quite interesting.

MARCUS: I've got so many pictures; I don't know what to do with them.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARCUS: I was just showing Dale Eggleston the --- have you been to the Riverside Dam?

DOROTHEA: Nope.

MARCUS: Warm Springs Dam?

DOROTHEA: Nope.

MARCUS: Well.

DOROTHEA: Maybe once a hundred years ago, but ---

MARCUS: Well, it wasn't there a hundred years ago.

Are we all ready now? Okay, this is a map here of 1912, I put this in to show Harney County here, about as much as we can get in a map here, and show something, for people who aren't acquainted with what we are going to talk about. Now this was a railroad that was surveyed through here in 1912, from Crane. Comes right around the north side of Malheur Lake, and come down here, and these shysters got in here and set up town sites here. This fellow name of Wellington set up this town site right here. And then a fellow by the name of Arden got this one right next, by it here. And this Wellington town site has never been vacated. It's still --- you'll see in the paper, sales of lots in Wellington. And that's where it's at. When you come from Burns, to The Narrows, you go right across the east end of it there, just out from north of The Narrows there, a mile, or such a matter. You can see about where it's at. And then this is the Sand Reef, which we're going to be talking about a lot, right around here, separates Harney Lake from Malheur. Now this is Mud Lake, you see right in here. And then these channels break out and come on down to where we were there yesterday; it would be right about in there.

And of course this is the Blitzen Valley here. And the refuge headquarters is right about, right there. And then the Steens Mountains is in here. And this is the Catlow Valley country back out in through here, you see. So we'll go to another one here.

And this is at The Narrows ... (unrelated conversation) see the Sand Reef here, they've got it washed out here. And then this is the meander line around Malheur Lake, and then this is what is flooded, you see, out of Malheur Lake, especially on the north side here. And this is the railroad, this dark line right here. And that shows you where the tracks are under water, and that, which is back down through here.

Now our first record ... (unrelated conversation) Peter Skene Ogden was a trapper here for the Hudson Bay Company, and he came through here on his way to California in the fall of 1826. He came in from the north, and trapped down Silver --- down through Silvies River, right through Burns, and then continued on down south. And he said that he arrived on the, December the 1st --- or November 1 at sundown, at two great bodies of water. And he said they were separated by a ridge of sand, an acre in width. The lake on the right was salty, and the one on the left was fresh water. And he said the two lakes had no intercourse, otherwise they would have joined together. And they spent four days around here looking for something to trap here. And right over here see is where we were yesterday. Here is Steens Mountain, Jack Butte, this is Saddle Butte, here is Jack Butte back up here.

Now when he left, he goes up the north side of Harney Lake, and out by the Double O which --- and Iron Mountain, you see here is Wagontire out through here. So this gives you the Sand Reef--- this is pointing west here, you see, and that white line we could see yesterday from up on top here.

It goes on out and the Double O country right here, getting closer to Iron Mountain

all the time. And then this is the old man of the mountain here, that is telling him good-bye here as he goes by. And that's the last we see of him. He comes back through the next spring though, and tells about the lake being full of water, and the stench that he --- the odor and all from the lake. And that's, apparently the Sand Reef had washed out, and then washed in there and killed the fish, like we saw down there yesterday. Those fish if piled up, that would have been a pretty good odor itself that we saw, saw a pretty good example of that yesterday.

Well then the next fellow to come in here was John Work. And he was a trapper. They trapped the year round in those days. This is July the 2nd, in 1831. And he came in from the south side. He came out of Catlow Valley, was going north through to The Dalles. He couldn't get across the Sand Reef there, so he goes around by the Double O, and he said he saw an Indian every fifteen yards all the way around the --- all around the south side of Harney Lake.

And then this is the south side that he was traveling on right here, traveled around here. And then the Double O was right at the end of that point there. And we were just right back here. The eagle point is, where we looked at the nest is just right back here.

And then here is the first map we had here. Now this is the Meeks Wagon Train, and this was in 1845. And they come into Vale here, on the old Oregon Trail, and then they turned north and went up through here and hit the Columbia River, and went on through The Dalles, and worked their way on into the Willamette Valley. Well this fellow Meeks got a group of them to break loose here from Vale. He knew a shortcut through to the Willamette Valley. And he starts through here with them, he comes up to the Malheur River for awhile, and finally got so bad they had to get out on top, and he come through then by what is Beulah Reservoir is now. Grave up there of Mrs. Chambers, is buried

nearby there. And he comes through, right through Drewsey, and comes on down, and here is the lake, you see. Here's the Harney and Malheur Lakes, and he takes right out across the desert here. That's where they had all the hardships, and people died, and they had animals --- died for lack of water. And they finally got over here and got on the Deschutes River, and then they followed the river down to the Columbia, and these people that had gone this way, they are already over in the Willamette Valley and all settled by the time they got up there.

So this is the Meeks Terrible Trail that you talk about it comes right across there. You always think about that when you go to Bend, or I do. See we had a county or two here, we weren't a state yet. But see here is Turlity and Clatsop, and Yamhill and Polk. And we were in Champoeg. And here is Clackamas up here in the corner.

So here is the next map we see is 1847. We got us in Linn County here now. And then we've added on over here, Benton, and so we --- are you getting that all right?

BARBARA LOFGREN: I think pretty much all of it.

MARCUS: And then we've slipped another county in here, Linn County, and this is '51, you see.

Then here is '53, it hasn't changed much here. But you can see how they are filling up over on the west side of the Cascade Mountains here. And you see this Turlity County has been changed to Washington County here, since we have been moving along here. And then the Elliott train came through here in 1853. And they came in from, in the valley over here, this is Fort Harney country right here. And they came across toward the Island Ranch, there is the sheds right there at the Island. And in the summer they had followed the Meeks wagon trail until they got in these meadows here, and then they lost it. Well they got lost in here, and instead of continuing southwest, they just turned east. It

was smoky, and they couldn't get their bearings. And they went clear around Malheur Lake, and come in on the south side.

So here is the way they went here. This is Seeley Lane here, that's Saddle Butte right there. You can see Steens Mountain in the distance. The railroad tracks right down there. And on around --- and this is the railroad track just out of Crane here. They went right by here. And that looks like a pretty good railroad, until you look at it from the side. And see all the ballasts has washed out under these ties. So they'll have to take the ties, and take the rails up and rebuild the road, in spite of everything, I guess.

They continued on around then, and here is Wright's Point, or Windy Point right here. And the Thompson place is right here, you see. This is the road going, Highway 78 going out through there. And then they turned west and come down the south side of the lake and look over here, and here's the Crane Butte again, right over there where the railroad, we were looking at it right there.

And the next stop here that they mention is the Sod House Spring, or where the refuge headquarters are now. The tower is right up here where we were yesterday. And they said they come to a beautiful fresh water spring at the head of the marsh. Well this is the head of the marsh right here, talking about Malheur Lake. And they went over here and they crossed the river here, and continued on around the way we were there yesterday, around by eagle point, and around by the Double O. And then they took out across the country here, but they were going to Diamond Point. They got around in here and got hung up, and they finally fished them over the --- they had a lot of hardships, but nothing like the other folks.

But see what has happened in here, see here is '56, and we're in Wasco County now. And here in '59, a Captain Wallen comes in, and he comes in from the west, on the

7th of July. And you can imagine what the mosquitoes and horseflies were around Malheur Lake, or Harney Lake. And he had quite a time with his horses. And that is when he named Harney Lake after captain; commanding officer of Oregon at the time was Captain Harney. And he got on down to Mud Lake there, and they really got in trouble there, they lost their horses and had quite a time. They named the lake Stampede Lake, and it went by that for quite awhile. And then this is the view that he had coming along the lake here. There is a bunch of pelicans out there. Here is Double O, right at the end of this point; it looks just about straight west back there.

Then in 1860, Lieutenant Dixon came in here. He was a topographical engineer, and was traveling with captain, or the Major Enoch Steens. And they come down, and they cross on the Sand Reef. They are chasing the Indians, and they go up and over Steens Mountain.

And the Sand Reef was in again, and they go by Fish Lake here. And they went on over and come on through here, and they look off into the Little Blitzen Gorge. Now right down there is where that airplane flew into --- they were flying up here and couldn't get out, and they wrecked just under the edge of this thing here is where the seven, five or seven men or whatever was in the plane were killed.

And then you look out here to Catlow Valley, and this is Hart Mountain back over here, and Poker Jim Ridge, and Guanos Slough country back through here. And Beatty Buttes is just barely off of the map here.

While you're up here, you look, you go on up and you look off into the Big Indian here. And all over then, to look down the canyon here. This is Wild Horse Lake here, and Wild Horse Canyon. You come out on the other side over here near a little town of--- what's it called, can't think --- Andrews. Well they took off going east, and they got out in

the mud and had quite a time in the Alvord, yeah Alvord Lake back in here. The upper end of the desert. And Enoch --- or the lieutenant wrote in his diary, which I have here, he said I have traveled two hundred and fifty miles of the most worthless country I ever expect to travel. He said we never seen animals put to such --- over such terrain as we were going down this canyon. They lost three pack mules overboard down through here, so he says I hereby name this mountain we just crossed, the Steens Mountain, after my very energetic commander Major Enoch Steens. So that's when Steens Mountain was named.

So now we get in '62 here, we're in Wasco County, but they are cutting it up a little. We have Baker County over here now, and Umatilla, but see how we're filled up over here.

And then in 1864, Captain Currey came into this country from the Alvord country, he built Fort Alvord there, and he left part of his men there. And this was in June of 1864. And he was headed for The Dalles country, and he comes in over the mountains here, and into Anderson Valley where --- this is where old Doc Anderson used to live. And then later the Mahons and then the Jenkins live up in here. And Highway 78 goes right across from here out to Burns Junction. And then the Malheur Cave is just right around, right down in there. Now if ---

SIDE B

MARCUS: He comes to Malheur Lake and follows down the south side of it, going west. And then he comes to the Sod House Spring. And he mentions the spring here too. This is after they did the developing work on the spring. And here is the photographer blind here that has been washed out and gone now. And here is the top of the Scharff's house

here. They made into an office now. And see the birds out here in the spring, which you don't see anymore.

He said they went on west for a quarter mile, and came to a sluggish river. Well it's the Blitzen River. Here is our place right here; it runs right --- follows right on up through here. It's crookeder than a dog's hind leg. Goes up through here to Rattlesnake Butte. He said he marched up there for half a days march, and finally got across the river up there. And then he heads right back this way here, northwest, back toward Harney Lake. And he comes a little ways and crosses the river right here at the Rockford. Comes on down, and he comes to the McLoughlin Slough. And while they are trying to get across this McLoughlin Slough, there come up a real hard rain and lightening storm and one of the soldiers said, "Well Captain Currey, you ought to call this lightening and thunder in here." And he said, "Well, we'll call this river Lightening, and we'll call the other one Thunder, or Donner and Blitzen." He was German. And that's the name --- turned out that they were one and the same. This McLoughlin Slough is just a branch of the Blitzen River. And that's when the Blitzen River was named, in June of 1864.

Well he continues on down to cross on the Sand Reef, and this is what he finds, it's washed out, and he has to around by the Double O to get through.

Well here in '65, we've got Grant County, and that's when we got located too, right here is the lake, you see. And then we got a Baker County over here, and Union and these counties in here is filled up.

Then a Captain Williams came in here in 1865, and set up the Camp Wright down here at the end of Wright's Point.

And it's --- here's the Island Ranch right here. I took this picture off the end of the point. And the camp was right in here, just about where these cows are standing, is right

between the points there. And he did some exploring around that winter, and then went over in the Drewsey country and down below Riverside and around. And finally ended up going over to Weed Lake.

Now this is where we were yesterday. The Sand Reef is just now washing out here.

BARBARA: Let's stop just a minute Marcus. ... (Unrelated conversation)

MARCUS: Now this is Weed Lake right back here. See this is where we were yesterday; this is where the water first broke through here. And he stayed all night in February of '65, right on this lakebed. And the Indians slipped in that night and stole some of the horses, and shot one of the soldiers with an arrow. Shot it clear through him. Killed him right on the spot. Kelly was his name. So they --- the next morning then they loaded Kelly on a pack horse and started down here to get back to camp with him, and they found that the Sand Reef was washed out and they couldn't get through here. So they had to go on around by the Double O.

He comes back, and in his diary tells about, this is the top, the very top of Steens -- - Wright's Point right here. And he said that they buried Kelly just up on the edge out of the wet ground up here on the drainage, and the sand was soft, so he would be buried right about in here. Of course they couldn't mark those graves in those days, the Indians would dig the graves out. And so --- but I talked to Henry Vogler, the old man one time, and he said I know where that grave is at. And he said you come down and I'll show it to you. And by gosh, the old fellow died before I got down there. So --- He said people had been coming in there with metal detectors, and trying to find the grave but ---

Well this is the sign that you see down at the fork of the road there, on Highway 20, directing you into where Fort Harney was. You tell me when you have it read there.

BARBARA: I wasn't reading.

MARCUS: Okay. Now this is an aerial picture of Harney, before it was dried up here, and the Rattlesnake right up near where this dust is coming up. And this is where Harney City was. Right where these trees are. This is the Harney City town site, and there was a Camp Harney town site that set right in here. They joined at this corner right here. And this is the Withers place, the Clark place, and the folks who have the saddlery shop up here, the Bennett's, they just bought this place, and moved out there in the last month, right here. There is a log house there now.

And this is a picture of Camp Harney taken in 1892 --- 1872 here. That was five years before the Indian uprising.

The museum people from over at John Day come over and borrowed this picture; we've never been able to get it back. I copied this out of Brimlow's book. Here is the way the camp was laid out. Of August in 1877.

DOROTHEA: Can you get all of that?

MARCUS: Probably not. Probably couldn't read it anyway. Now here is the town sites that --- very few people ever heard of Camp Harney town sites right here. See where they hooked on this --- this is Harney City right here.

And here is a newspaper here, and here is a fellow that had a grocery store in Camp Harney. And there is his ad right there. This fellow up here, the barber, he's got a -- you could get a shower, you could get a bath on Saturday and Sundays, but the rest of the time you went without. And this C. Sampson the practical and mechanical, I don't know whether he was the barber or not. (Laughter) But anyway, we hear about the birds here. Here is one right here.

And then here is 1874, now we're still in Grant County, and there hasn't been much

change made.

Now, here is the Sand Reef right here before the water --- this is Harney Lake, when it's dry, right out here in front. This is all washed out. You can imagine where all that dirt and stuff came from when you look at the Sand Reef here.

And Mart Brenton, you remember --- you remember Mart Brenton I think you told me. And he was at the "P" Ranch; he homesteaded up there at the "P" Ranch. That's called the Brenton cabin, and then they sold out to Pete French, and moved into Burns.

And then in the spring of 1881, his horses got out, saddle horses, and they all headed back to the "P" Ranch. And we took after them, and he said they followed them down to the Sand Reef, and he said that the water was just ready to come over the top here, on the Sand Reef from the Malheur side. So he took the toe of his boot and started the water through, and when he come back, this is what it looked like.

And then over the years, here is the break in the Sand Reef. They estimate this to be 50 feet high right in here. And this is what we were looking for, or what I was looking for yesterday. I can't see --- this was all gone through here, and I can't find out for sure just where it's at. But I think that --- I studied these pictures this morning, I went through the whole bunch here, and I can show you. See this was taken from the road. That rough road that we were on. And there was the break in the Sand Reef there, when the water first came through. And I can take my binoculars and find those two trees setting right back up there, and just line it up with the base of Iron Mountain. And I won't be very darn far off, you can see that. But I think this is the ridge that is standing in there yet, that we were on top of, each end of yesterday.

But this is what the lake looks like from the road out here. I took this picture later; see there is that ridge we were on. Now over here is where the water is running through.

And you can just barely see the end of the Reef over here.

Now here is about the same picture we were looking at a while ago. But the water is kind of interesting. The water is running over right here. Right there is where we left the car, and we walked down. Now this is all gone on down through here I'm sure, and I think --- I rather think that this is the high section right in here, is what's left. And if that's true, well the channel which we crossed is pretty well back up here.

And you can't tell --- now I took this picture off the eagle point here. This shows the road we went down, that's where I cut the fence right there. We just went out and got down and went along here. And if this is kind of what we figure it is, why the old break was right about in here. But then all of this buildup out in here makes me kind of wonder about it too.

And here is Dog Mountain, and here is the Blue Mountains, here is Wright's Point over here. And this is the road that would go to Double O. It goes right along the south side --- the north side of the lake right along through here. And here is the rest --- you can really see the high water mark on it all the way around through there. Farther over here it gets the higher it gets. That's the reason, there isn't anything washed out back through here until you get way over around towards the Double O.

Here is Jim Donovan standing about where we were --- this is about where Barbara stopped and took the pictures here when we were back there.

We didn't see any fish along through here. I think those fish had been washed out; you see there is no fish along in here. And they were all along in here as I recall yesterday. Yeah. In fact I took a picture of them right along in here someplace, they were just as thick as can be.

And then here about --- it's been about a month ago, that I took this picture out in

front of the eagle point there, where we turned around. And I took back. Here is this ridge in here. And here is where the water is going through. You see how much higher everything was then, and then this picture here is the other half of it here. And you see the end of Wright's Point real plain. It will give you an idea of which direction you're looking.

This is the fence that we built down there with the Job Corp boys. Built a fence through here. And then they come along and built one right on top of it, see. And it comes out down through here, and went down on the lake, Malheur --- on down on Harney Lake, and cornered right about in here someplace.

And then this is the sand drifted --- the way it drifted over the top here. They made this road in here when they built the fence through; it's just up above here.

But this is the one here that you have to wonder about how they managed to build that fence through that pile of sand. (Laughter)

Well that's the --- and then here's the --- where we got back up --- The next picture I have here is the '93, we're in Harney here. Here we got Malheur and Baker and --- but see the Deschutes County isn't in here yet. And I think there is another one or two that's been placed in after '93.

And that's the end of the picture show. Now I can give you some more pictures here if you would like to see them, of the Sand Reef. And there might be something that you want to add in there that can add a little to your story.

... (Unrelated conversation)

BARBARA: We'll just go ahead and run it. We have enough tape I think.

MARCUS: These will be mixed up here pretty much. Well it's getting wider here. I kept walking in, and taking the picture here. And finally I couldn't get in there on account of the

water being over the --- in there by the fence.

Now this is looking back towards The Narrows here. This is before the whole thing washed out, of course.

That's where you fell overboard there yesterday. (Laughter) That's the Weed Lake rim.

DOROTHEA: Pretty close.

MARCUS: Huh.

DOROTHEA: The water was up there pretty close.

MARCUS: Oh yeah, you bet. It sure was. This is the original break in the Sand Reef right here. And that looks kind of like what we were climbing up on there yesterday, doesn't it?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, it does.

MARCUS: See how heavy the thing is in places. That's all --- a lot of that is just all washed out, and no wonder they had dirt enough to fill up the whole country around there.

DOROTHEA: Really.

BARBARA: It's hard to believe, isn't it?

MARCUS: Yeah. Here is the break, in the wintertime. Now that's on the south side. That's the low side of it. The high side is on the north over here. That's looking east there in that picture.

Here is another picture here; it's starting to go through there. But this is out over Harney Lake, see these aerial pictures here.

DOROTHEA: Is that aerial?

MARCUS: Yeah. Now see this is taken from out on the road there too. You can see how it's opened up here clear across. This all happens over about where the Sand Reef turns west, and towards the Double O there, that these big sand dunes are piled up there. And the refuge --- that was so fragile, that they had to fence the whole thing off, you can't get in there now. And in fifteen minutes, somebody be up there with motorcycles and all, and the wind comes up and you couldn't even tell where it was, you know. But it was sure fragile. They just couldn't stand for that. They fenced everybody out. That was Mazzoni's job.

Here is about the same thing. Here is the road right here. Somebody went up across there with a motorcycle, you can see the tracks.

Here is a little design in the reef here, something running around in it.

And this is over on the east side here, before the water even thought about coming in. So is this.

And here is a blowhole through the reef here. See there is a fence through here. See this is where the --- come out on the other side of that picture we were looking at I think, right here, see.

Now here is --- I wanted to show you this one. Here is the eagle's nest we were looking at yesterday, and see how the nest was built then in those days. It run back up into that crevice that is hanging over --- that the eagles hid in. That's the way the nests were built. There is only that one nest there now, isn't there. One right there. And then there used to be another one right back in here. I think you can see the pile that ... in here. But there is always some eagles sitting around up there. If they have two or three of them, it kept them pretty busy feeding them.

This is how this erosion takes place. There is a juniper, or a greasewood plant

there that is just barely hanging on. You see where it started from. All this sand is whipped out around from it there. ... part of the fence up there.

DOROTHEA: Now I see where all those roots came from. It's different greasewoods.

MARCUS: Yeah. Now here is an interesting picture. This is, the lake is completely dry here. And right here is where the break is. It built up quite a delta out in here from the water. Now I was telling about that channel that comes through. You can see it right through there. It comes down and goes through. But what is, I didn't notice this --- now maybe it was before we parked the car, right there. This is the fence line, the corner is right there. We walked over, and see this is all washed, all gone up in, about in here. And then from here, it is all gone. But look at this line around here; you can see it all the way, about as, nearly as far as you can see. Looks like there has been a water line right there.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARCUS: Some time or another. Kind of interesting. Run through some of this, here's some more. There is Steens Mountain over there. There is the first eagle point we came to. The road got rough, and we went right on around like this.

DOROTHEA: Well they don't have the sand dunes in there now, do they?

MARCUS: No.

DOROTHEA: It's all washed out?

MARCUS: Yeah. You see, up on top here, there is no vegetation at all. It's all blowed away, and covered up. Now this is Harney Lake. See now this is completely dry. Now this is just as white with alkali, as this --- now that's where it is coming from, is off of that lakebed.

Now here is The Narrows, right here. There is the old building that has fell down

here now. And of course the water is five feet deep all through up through there now.

About the same --- That's Dry Mountain off Silver Creek right there.

Here is Iron Mountain, then Wagontire. And here is the water out to here now, you see.

Here's a Chinese coolie that got left here. Somebody come through. (Laughter)
She is out here in the kitchen now! (Edna) (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: Somebody come through and picked her up did they?
(Laughter)

MARCUS: That's the Harney Lake side there. Here's another pile of sand that --- Now this is looking right out on Harney Lake over toward the Double O country. This is wet right in here from the storms, it was in the wintertime.

There is Iron Mountain there that we have been looking at so much. And then here is this channel formed right here, goes through. I think we ought to find some more --- yeah, here it is. I took this in the fall, I went up there one evening on the hill, running around there, had to check my water. And I took the camera along, and this is all alkali that you're seeing in here now.

But that's the channel that, the way it washed out, went out through there. And then it bends around, and it goes back down here to where Dunn's lived there. It's a good three miles long, and its --- you drive --- you had to pick a place to get across it in a car, it was that steep. And it would be --- you know the top of your car would be far below ground level when you got in, they had a road grade through there.

Here is another picture of the Sand Reef here before the water came. And then this is just a picture. I don't know just where. It's the Sand Reef someplace, but ---

Here is the sand blowing here. Here is the Reef; you've seen that one before.

These are all repetition, most of them. Here's the double fence here. They used to have a sign on this. They got ashamed of it and took it down I guess. Said no motorized vehicles past this point. (Laughter) Couldn't get the family car across there with a tank. (Laughter)

There is my old dog up on one of the blowholes through the sand here.

Here's another, when the break kept widening out here. Now this is what we were looking at there yesterday. You see last summer this water was of course a lot lower, come make the design. That's the brush coming up out of there I guess. I don't know what else it could be.

This is on the Malheur lakeside here. Here is another aerial picture of it. There is the newspaperman.

DOROTHEA: He looked in awe.

MARCUS: Yeah. This is the original channel. When I first started through here, there was no water. That's Larry Dunn's house right down there. And this is in the wintertime. See the mountain is all white back up here yet. And the spring. Now here is another picture here, about the same picture we were looking at before. I think I can get reference on. Now see that fence down there we're pretty close to it. This is the Moon place over here, where these trees are. This is the old Hughet place. Hughet Spring there.

Now here is another when the water was going through. I walked in there about every month and kept watching that. And that water just kept coming up of course. Pretty soon it started cutting the banks off here. This is looking --- I took the picture back towards Malheur Lake all the time, because they had a bank on that Harney Lake side. You look back to the east there.

Now this is the, one of the pictures I wanted to show you. Now that is what the

thing looked like when it was dry. Now there is the channel that old Mart started, and there is that high point right there, you see. Now this is quite a little lower in here. It's a hard thing to get a picture of because there are so many doglegs down through there. But this greasewood out in through here was so thick you couldn't walk through it. It had been dry for that long, then that much moisture, it really grew. And then this, got out in here, that's where we tell about you going across --- there wouldn't be a tenth of a foot difference in elevation there for miles out there. The thing was that flat and level.

And here is --- now you can see --- that fellow, he is six feet and a little better. And he is standing on ice there. It was frozen up in here. And you multiply him by five, and you wouldn't get to the top of that. So that shows you --- this is all ground off and gone right here. I think probably this is the high water mark right about in here, is where we got too. And then just cut the rest of that off and washed it away.

That's about the same picture we were looking at a while ago. Here is where we parked, eagle point here. The road used to go right around on a gravel reef right here and down the south side. And then it washed out and filled all this country back up in through here, this dry lake.

Now here the water is coming up here, you see. Here it is again. Now this shows you how thick that greasewood is. 1948, we farmed here, the lake was dry. You could drive across anyplace you wanted to. It got to storming like it is here now, and filled up, and the water runs through the lake. We went down here to see if --- about the ground that is all out there. We had a thousand acres of grain. Walking right along this bank right here, and a big old rattlesnake laying there, letting a rattle out --- you could shake hands with him. I pretty near lit out in the middle of the stream. (Laughter) I remember I always looked for snakes around there after that.

Now here is the channel now, it was washed out. This is the north side of it. See how it cut that out there? Just kept chewing away, and away she went.

It's just now breaking through over here. This is the low spot of the original channel. And then this is over on the south side, looking back to eagle point; the nest is right up there.

Here is another picture here, a little different than what we have been looking at. But I --- see they've got the water in here now. I stopped in the same place, lined Iron Mountain up here so I could tell where I was working from. Here is another picture of the channel we'll probably never see again. This was taken from the south bank across there on that.

Now this is right out on Harney Lake itself here. This had --- had that scum, you kick that loose with your toe down there an inch and you're in mud. It just insulated it there. It never dried out completely. It keeps blowing and drying it down a little. And blowing off and ---

And here is the first pictures that I took when I went down there. I got a picture of Fred Fine in here. He is walking ahead of me here. They cut these banks off, and all along in through here, these bank swallows, the first time I had ever seen bank swallows dug --- they dig holes instead of building nests. Did you ever see them?

DOROTHEA: Huh uh.

MARCUS: I never. And they made holes back in there. And they had their nests. And they look just like the little barn swallow. Maybe you've seen them. And the --- but --- they didn't last long, before the whole thing washed out there. But that was the nicest beach. We walked from --- we got down there, and we couldn't get out of here, you see. We slid in off down in here someplace, and we had to come clear down here to the break to get

out. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Oh, gosh.

MARCUS: So we stayed up on top when we went back. There you saw that picture, I think, with Fine.

Now you see, we've got a couple openings here. And this is an aerial picture here. This is looking south, and this is where the water went over. And we were parked just right back here. I think this is about where we walked --- right back in here where we walked in on the shore. You see, and this country is all in back through here yet. I still --- I just can't help believe that --- taken from the air, you're up there 1500, 2000 feet, and things, you know, are pretty small there. The distance is pretty great there. This is quite a little trip from here down to the channel there when we --- it seemed like it took us about a miles walk to get to it. It was up there on top, it was tough walking like we saw there yesterday. But ---

Now this is over at the refuge. Got this picture, it doesn't belong in here. There is Windy Point right there. I kept looking at that --- looking at that gate there. Now where in the devil is that around the lake. And finally I looked a little bit higher, and things kind of got in perspective. It was a gas tank, is right there, washed in from someplace. I took that picture to get it in there.

And then this is a picture off the eagle point here, or the first one when we come by where that fellow was hunting the rocks there. This is looking out across there. There isn't much of the Sand Reef sticking out clear across there now. Nothing like it was there yesterday.

Now, can you figure this picture out? Took me awhile to do this. Finally I come to, to what I was seeing here. This is The Narrows road, Burns roads. Those are a couple

cars or trucks or something.

BARBARA: It's the highway.

MARCUS: See that's the highway.

BARBARA: Yeah.

MARCUS: Yeah. Here is The Narrows. The buildings are just off, but the old cinder pit is right there. We come around --- there's the road, we come right around the point of it. The fellow that was hunting the rocks was just up right close by, right there. And old Knight's place is just out of site back around the turn there. And then that's another scene there in the wintertime with the break. This is a young couple here that was teaching school. This girl was teaching one of the schools in one --- Sod House. He was working up at the Job Corp. Their name was King. And their father --- his father was a doctor in Portland. Real nice couple. I took them down there. And they were just --- walked up there. And that was quite a while ago. That's looking out on Harney Lake. Every-thing was dry down there then.

Now this is --- I'll have to tell you this one. This is the last picture. I'll let you go. When they had the Indian uprising in '78, they jumped Pete French's outfit at the Diamond, and they went to the "P" Ranch, and they were afraid --- they were heading to Fort Harney, and they were afraid to come down the valley for fear they would run into the Indians there. So they stayed up on Jack Mountain, and came in there by the eagle point and crossed on the Sand Reef. And they got in here, and it was just breaking day, and they, some of them went ahead to see if there was any fresh tracks across here, for fear they would run into the Indians right here.

And that's Fred Witzel, we were down there, and Fred, he was looking for Indian tracks there in that picture. (Laughter) His father was shot, and I got his testimony here

about the Indian War. And he said that they rested about twenty minutes here at the Reef. And he said it was just getting daylight, and then they went on across the valley. And then past the Island Ranch, and on to Fort Harney. And that was quite a ride with a broken hip. And he was riding a horse with a blanket on his back. He didn't have a saddle for him. Pretty tough old guy.

DOROTHEA: Did he find any Indian tracks?

MARCUS: No. No, there wasn't. The Indians, see when they came in right through where old Doc Anderson, I was showing you --- up in Anderson Valley. And they divided forces, and the squaws and the older people and the kids --- they had everybody with them. They came down and crossed on the Sand Reef --- at Rockford, and went on around by the Double O. They went on up and camped up there on Silver Creek, just below the highway. And then the warriors, they figured there was six or seven hundred of them, went into the Double O --- into Diamond and Happy Valley country.

And they thought they would --- surely going that way, that was quite a shortcut for them. Maybe they were afraid they would get caught in there too. So as it turned out, that they didn't go across there at all.

I'll have to tell you this story about --- this was in the early '40's. Another fellow and I went down to Nevada, working for John Scharff's here, to do some work on the Defferena Refuge. There was a fellow there that --- from Alturas who was doing some painting and papering, a fellow by the name of Williamson. So he found out where we were from, and he said well I'll tell you a story about my dad. He said he was a salesman, and lived in Lakeview. And he hooked up to his team and headed for Fort Harney. There wasn't no Burns at the time, see in '78, and they would stop at the Double O Ranch, stay all night there. And this was in the middle of June, and he said they stopped there and he

said the mosquitoes were so thick that he just couldn't get their breath. He said he just hooked up his team and drove on towards Burns, got up on top of the hill, then kind of got out of the mosquitoes, and spent the rest of the night. And he just got out of there, and the Indians came along and burnt the house up. (Laughter) He come that close to getting hit. You bet. He said Dad would never kill a mosquito after that. (Laughter)

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