

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #252 - Sides A & B

Subject: Marie Hardin - With Video

Place: Marie Hardin Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: May 15, 1989

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

Release Form: Yes

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy and I'm speaking with Marie Hardin in her home in Burns, Oregon. The date is May 15th, 1989. Marie, we're going to do a little history on you, on being chosen as Pioneer Woman for 1989, Pioneer Day in June. And this is our centennial year, so we are real interested in some of your lifetime. Can you give us your maiden name, and married name?

MARIE HARDIN: Nellie Marie Moore was my maiden name.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

MARIE: Marie Hardin now, Hardin.

DOROTHEA: Who were your parents?

MARIE: Charles "Pony" Moore, and Myrtle Smyth Moore.

DOROTHEA: Myrtle Smyth Moore?

MARIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Was she any ---

DONNA TACKMAN: S M Y.

DOROTHEA: S M Y ---

MARIE: M Y.

DOROTHEA: She must have been some relation to the Smyth's around here then.

MARIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Well, that makes you a Smyth, as well as a Moore and a Hardin. Man, you've got all

kinds of history. What was your parents living --- how did they make a living?

MARIE: They just worked for wages.

DOROTHEA: On ranches?

MARIE: On ranches, yes.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Did they --- were they born in Harney County, or did they come later?

MARIE: My mother was born in Harney County, in Happy Valley.

DOROTHEA: And who were her parents?

MARIE: Rye and Nellie Smyth.

DOROTHEA: Okay. Can you spell that Smyth for us?

MARIE: S M Y T H.

DOROTHEA: All right. How long did they live out in that country?

MARIE: When I was born, I was born in Burns, and then they moved out to Sagehen and worked at Riley and Sagehen until I was about four or five years old. And then they moved over to Happy Valley at my Grandparent's ranch. My dad helped my Grandfather.

DOROTHEA: On the ranch?

MARIE: On the ranch. And then that was the days when everyone was filing on homesteads. So, they filed up on a homestead up on Steens Mountain, on Riddle Creek. And we spent summers up there, and one winter I can remember. Then when I was about seven years old, they moved down to Diamond. I started to school at Diamond.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

MARIE: I had one brother, he is deceased now, Charley Moore was his name.

DOROTHEA: M O O ---

MARIE: O O R E.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any --- well how did you meet your husband?

MARIE: My husband, I went to work at Roaring Springs for Elmer and Wanda Ash. And Elmer was the boss at the Roaring Springs Ranch then. And Jim worked for the Company there. Joe Fine was the man they were working for.

DOROTHEA: And Jim is your husband?

MARIE: That's where I met Jim. Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And he was Jim Hardin. Is he the father of your children?

MARIE: No.

DOROTHEA: Then how many children did you have.

MARIE: I had two children. One is Jim's little boy. And then Donna's father and I met in high school at Crane.

DOROTHEA: And his name was?

MARIE: Forrest Carey.

DOROTHEA: How do you spell that?

MARIE: F O R R E S T C A R E Y.

DOROTHEA: C A R E Y. Was he some relation to Bertha Carey?

MARIE: Yes. The father, his father, was a cousin to Bertha's husband.

DOROTHEA: Okay now, at one time there was a Harry Carey that run the ---

MARIE: That's was his father.

DOROTHEA: That was his father.

MARIE: That was my father-in-law. Harry ... Carey.

DOROTHEA: Now, he run the Lawen Post Office for a while.

MARIE: Yes, yes.

DOROTHEA: Okay. I should have been timing this. Okay, let's just go on and briefly tell some of the history about your life, your parent's life. What kind of a life they led. How hard was it for them to make a living then? And what all kinds of things did you do for fun? Just kind of start telling me everything that comes into your mind.

MARIE: Well, the first part of my life it seemed like to me it was all fun.

DOROTHEA: That's part of being a child.

MARIE: Yes. And we lived a very humble, simple life. Everyone --- didn't have very much money in those days. And I remember that my mother, seems like she always made everything that Charlie and I

played with. We had an old homemade wagon, and a homemade sled. And then she made us some stilts; we learned to walk on stilts. And ---

DOROTHEA: Did you ever learn to walk on those stilts?

MARIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: I tried, and tried, and tried, and never did learn.

MARIE: And we'd hitch the old dog, we had two dogs, but one was --- we could put harness on him, and hitch him to the wagon and my --- Charlie was five years younger than I was. He would ride in the wagon. I would lead the dog, and away we would go. They had all kinds of pets, lambs and leppy calves.

One of the main pets we had was a pet crow. Charlie got it when it was just a little fellow out of a nest. And he was, he was real mischievous this old crow. He'd steal everything he could get in his mouth, he would steal. My Grandfather was fixing a --- he was trying to make a bucket, and put a handle in a can. Laid his knife down, and this old crow took it and sailed away with it, you know. So, all the grown-ups didn't like him very much. Shiny was his name. And we --- when my folks bought the ranch in Diamond, why that's where we first found him. And he'd follow us halfway to school. And then he'd fly on back to the ranch. And one day we noticed that old Shine wasn't following us. So, we just, every bunch of crows that flew over we'd get out there and holler, "Here Shine, here --- come Shine." That went on, for I don't know how long. But he never did come. My mother told us that he must have flew away with a band of crows, just went back to the wild. And about fifteen years later, they told us that he got to killing my mother's little baby chicks. My dad of course done away with him.

And we'd hunt --- in the spring we'd hunt eggs, wild bird eggs. My mother said, "Just take one egg now, and don't bother the nest any other way." And then she would bore a hole in those eggs with a knitting needle, and blow the yolk out. We had string, strings of those eggs.

And we made all of our Valentines, that I can remember. I can never remember crayons when I was little.

DOROTHEA: You don't remember crayons?

MARIE: Had water paints with a brush.

DOROTHEA: How did you make the colors, do you remember? Were they already made?

MARIE: They were boughten watercolors. But we never had any pretty ribbons or anything. My mother would save any little piece of colored yarns, you know, she had. We'd dress the Valentines up like that.

DOROTHEA: I'm going to get real nosy now, and ask you what your age is, when you were born, and what date?

MARIE: 1907, I'm 81, November the 29th.

DOROTHEA: November 29th, you're 81. That's going to make me figure. That's going to be 1907, okay, you told me that. Were you born in Burns?

MARIE: Burns, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: We want a picture of---

MARIE: (Reading from a prepared statement.) I was born November the 29th, 1907, at the home of my great aunt and uncle, Ann and Chauncy Cummins, in Burns, Oregon. Dr. Geary was the attending physician.

When I was about twelve days old my parents, Myrtle and "Pony" Moore, moved to a ranch near Sagehen. We lived there for about three years.

My dad gave me my first pup, a fox terrier. We named her Chip, and she was my constant companion. When I was four years old, my folks moved to Happy Valley to help my Grandfather, Darius Smyth. During this time, my Uncle Corey, and wife Minnie Smyth, and two cousins Winona and Gene lived there also. These two cousins were like a brother and sister to me.

These years were the fun years of my life. We only had a few restrictions. Could not run in the house, or play on the beds, climb on the dirt cellar roof, or get in the garden or berry patch, and not ride the milk cows. When we were naughty, we had to spend time down in the old dark cellar. But as you all should know, in spite of the punishment, we would do all the things we were asked not to do. We played house, and always used the fresh eggs to mix in our mud pies. Grandma Nellie never understood why some days the old hens didn't lay eggs. Life really became serious when dad went to milk the cows and calves would be with the cows, and there wouldn't be any milk that evening.

Once a week during the hot weather, we each took a small bucket and went to the family cemetery with Grandma Nellie to help her water a lilac bush she had planted. This lilac bush is still alive. We would go to the Smyth Creek, get the water into our buckets, and pack it back to pour on the bush.

We all learned young to ride horses, and many hours spent exploring, racing, and so forth on the horses.

There were five bedrooms in our Grandparent's home, and one of the beds had a straw ticking. And in the wintertime, we were allowed to play in this room. The folks knew the feather ticks would never survive the treatment the straw ticks received.

During these years, everyone was filing on homestead claims. This meant a lot of weeks, and often months were spent on these claims proving up.

First, we lived in tents until my dad built a small three-room house with an attic. One morning a rabid coyote came into the yard and fought my little dog Chip. Dad didn't even finish his breakfast, saddled his horse and took Chip up the canyon and shot her and buried her. For weeks after, each time we had to go by that spot, I mourned.

My dad built a picket type fence with small aspen posts around the house so my brother Charlie and I could play outside in safety.

The homesteading days were over by the time I was seven years old, and we moved to Diamond Valley.

My mother sewed me the prettiest dress for my first day of school. I had to crawl through a barbed wire fence on my way to school. Caught the new dress on a barb, and tore a big hole. I cried and cried, and didn't know what to do. Winona was with me, and she convinced me I had to go on to school. The teacher, Miss Duncan, was so nice. She found a safety pin and fixed the tear so I thought I was presentable.

When I was about twelve years old, the folks bought the home place in Diamond Valley. Charlie and I rode to school horseback. We had three wire gates to open and close on our way to and from school. We would each open and close a gate. But when we reached the third gate, the quarrel

began as to which one should open and close that gate. Wasn't that silly?

BARBARA: Just like kids.

MARIE: Many pets was loved and cared for during these years. And our favorite was a big black crow named Shine. Now do you want me --- I told you that once.

DOROTHEA: That's all right, go ahead.

MARIE: He always followed us part way to school, before he turned back home. He was always into trouble. He was a thief. And when my dad worked on machinery Shine was there, often taking tools and placing them on top of the largest and highest boulder on the hill above the house. And no one could climb to get them. One spring day, Shine came up missing. But Charlie and I was told a flock of crows had flown over, and Shine had joined them. For over a year, each time a flock of crows flew over, we would call for Shine. About twenty years later, we were told Shine had been killing the baby chicks, and my dad had to do away with him.

I attended the Diamond School for all eight grades, and one year of high school. I finished high school in Crane in 1924. Married Forrest Carey and continued to live in Crane. In 1928, we had a cute baby girl named Donna.

I was married to Jim Hardin in 1936. We had a son, Jimmy, who was with us a short six years. He passed away in 1943. The ranch was sold in 1967, when we moved to Burns. Here I have lived, spending many happy days with my family, and especially the seven great grandchildren.

DOROTHEA: Well, that sounds great.

MARIE: Yeah, of course that's just a little bit of the history.

DOROTHEA: Well, you did ---

MARIE: You know a fellow could just talk for, on and on.

DOROTHEA: Well, that's what we want you to do for this.

MARIE: Well, it's fun.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Your mother made your first dress when you went to school.

MARIE: It was pink, it was pink plaid, and trimmed in solid pink. I can just remember. And there I was. And I just cried. I was afraid to go home. And Winona said, "Well, you have to go to school."

DOROTHEA: Now who is Winona?

MARIE: She is my cousin, the girl I spoke of, when we was raised there together.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARIE: Her folks worked for my Grandfather. Winona Smyth.

DOROTHEA: You mentioned your Grandfather's name, Darius.

MARIE: Darius.

DOROTHEA: Now is this Rye's name? Or ---

MARIE: Rye, named Darius. There was a Darius senior, and a Darius junior. The junior, they called Hungry. Used to be a, you know my Uncle Hungry Rye?

DOROTHEA: No, I don't remember. We were out to the Smyth Cemetery in October.

MARIE: Were you?

DOROTHEA: And we found it very interesting. There are some questions that we came up with out there, that we didn't --- well we kind of wondered about. The Comegys, how are they related? And how do they come about being in the cemetery?

MARIE: That baby there, now let me think to tell you right. His --- help me here.

DONNA: You want my voice on there?

MARIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Fine, that's fine.

DONNA: What Comegys ...

MARIE: Oh.

DONNA: ... Gene Smyth, Winona's brother's stepson's baby.

MARIE: Baby.

DOROTHEA: Let's see if I'm getting her voice. What other names do ---

MARIE: Did you see ---

DONNA: There was Glen Comegys, was a brother to the ---

MARIE: I know one that would ---

DONNA: --- was an uncle to the baby that was buried out there. It was Gene Smyth's stepson, Glen Comegys, that was his ---

MARIE: I know one they would wonder about. But when it comes out in the museum letter, that they send out, you'll know all about it, 'cause I wrote it, and it's in there. It's --- why can't I think of his name. Jenny Clemens' first husband.

DOROTHEA: Oh, he's the one that was killed on the ---

DONNA: Marshall.

MARIE: No, not Marshall, Donna. Sidney Thomas.

DONNA: Sidney Thomas, yeah.

MARIE: His neck was broke.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARIE: And he was, did you see his?

DOROTHEA: No. I didn't think we saw that.

MARIE: In the cemetery?

DOROTHEA: If we did see it, we didn't realize.

MARIE: You didn't realize he was buried there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARIE: And the ones where the rock, you know the rock?

DOROTHEA: The big rock.

MARIE: Now that was the ashes of my great-uncle and ---

DOROTHEA: He was great ---

MARIE: Great-grandfather's ashes started the cemetery. And they are there. And then after the Great-grandmother passed away in Diamond, they brought her body back there, and its buried.

DOROTHEA: And her name was what?

MARIE: Uh huh. Margaret Smyth.

DOROTHEA: Margaret Smyth. And she was married to ---

MARIE: John.

DOROTHEA: To John. Okay.

DONNA: No, George.

MARIE: George.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

MARIE: Yes, she was married to George, what's the matter with me. And John was the brother that died, burned that night.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And if they hadn't have gone back to get something out of their home, they probably wouldn't have been ---

MARIE: I think they stayed to watch the stock.

DOROTHEA: Oh, is that what it was?

MARIE: Uh huh. They stayed there. And Grandpa, and of course the whole --- everybody in the valley went to Fort Harney. All the children and wives. And they stayed, they thought they would watch the stock, you know.

DOROTHEA: Well Donna, I'm learning all kinds of stuff about you that I didn't even know. So, I'm getting real ---

MARIE: The little Donna that was born.

DOROTHEA: The little Donna, that cute little girl. (Laughter)

MARIE: Little fat, I'll show her to you here pretty soon. (Shows picture album.) She was cute.

DONNA: Never changed.

MARIE: Stayed fat, didn't you Donna? (Laughter) Here she was.

DOROTHEA: Was that an insult?

DONNA: No. (Laughter)

MARIE: Here. She was cute, wasn't she?

BARBARA: Oh, my.

DOROTHEA: Barbara, you looked through that photograph book, maybe you'll come up with all kinds of questions.

MARIE: There she is.

DOROTHEA: Well, she was cute. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Don't you just love that?

DOROTHEA: She is posing even.

BARBARA: You said your mother sewed you your first dress that you wore to school.

MARIE: Oh, yes.

BARBARA: What kind of a sewing machine did she have? Do you remember?

MARIE: It was a --- from Sears. It's here.

DONNA: It was from Sears.

MARIE: Sears.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MARIE: Was it Minnesota? One was a Minnesota Model A, and we still have it.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

DOROTHEA: You still have it?

MARIE: One that ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, a treadle.

MARIE: Treadle.

BARBARA: Uh huh. And did she sew most all of the family clothing? Did she make the men's shirts?

MARIE: I bet she did. Because she sewed all of our clothes, forever. I can remember the first boughten dress I ever wore was --- my, this cousin, Winona handed it down to me. All the rest of them my mother made. When I was in high school, she made ---

DOROTHEA: How lucky you were, that's all I got was hand me downs.

MARIE: She made Donna's clothes too. Hand me downs and ---

DOROTHEA: My Grandmother made my cousin's clothes. And then when she'd outgrow them, because she was two years older, then I got them.

MARIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: I got lots of hand me downs.

MARIE: I can just see that dress yet, that Winona gave me. I sure thought it was nice though.

DOROTHEA: Do you know if your father and mother completed school? Did they go to school?
How would they ---

MARIE: No, my mother said that --- now she did. She even came in here to Burns. It couldn't have been high school. Was it high school she came to?

DONNA: Right over here where the old Episcopal Church is, is where ---

MARIE: And this is what made me feel bad. She went a little while, and she just didn't have enough clothes, and she quit. She didn't, you know, she didn't look like the other girls. So, she just quit.

BARBARA: That is really sad.

MARIE: Yes, it makes you feel bad. And my dad never went to school much at all. He was an orphan. He is a --- you know out here at Hampton --- Hampton Buttes. That was my father's people. His mother's people, Hamptons. And then through to the Riggs, and Bakers here in Burns. So, I have ---

DOROTHEA: So, you're a Baker too?

MARIE: His people ---

DOROTHEA: Oh, his people were Bakers. But that still makes you Baker.

MARIE: Uh huh. Yeah. You know Ethel Kalkbrenner, and Bonnie Smiths her girl. And then their brother --- her brother, Ethel's brothers and sisters.

DOROTHEA: And your --- what was her ---

MARIE: Bakers.

DOROTHEA: Baker.

MARIE: Uh huh. They were Bakers.

DOROTHEA: Okay. And then she's Elmer's, some relation to Elmer.

MARIE: Uh huh. Sister.

DOROTHEA: She is his sister.

MARIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

MARIE: Yes. And then ---

DOROTHEA: I have to get you guys together.

MARIE: And then ---

DOROTHEA: The whole family.

MARIE: Helen Riggs.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah.

MARIE: A third cousin I guess it is, to me. On my father's side of the house.

DOROTHEA: She was married to Bob Davis, right?

MARIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And they had the hot springs.

MARIE: Uh huh, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Hot springs out there, and raised tomatoes and ---

MARIE: And all that.

DOROTHEA: And where is she now?

MARIE: Lives in Nyssa.

DONNA: Nyssa.

MARIE: Nyssa. Yes, it's Nyssa

DOROTHEA: Is she remarried?

MARIE: Rhodes is her name now.

DOROTHEA: Now. Because I remember her when she used to work in Corbett's Store for so many, many years.

MARIE: Yes. She worked there forever.

DOROTHEA: She drove back and forth to work.

MARIE: So that's on my father's side of the house.

DOROTHEA: So, he was at Hampton.

MARIE: Hampton, and through that way.

DOROTHEA: Through that way. Well, now how did they meet, your mother and he?

MARIE: I think they met at a dance, maybe. You know, they used to dance in people's, their homes.

And I'm just sure it was at a dance they met.

BARBARA: I think that was one of the main things that people did for recreation in the early days.

MARIE: Oh, yes. That's what they did.

BARBARA: They gathered in different people's homes ---

MARIE: Homes.

BARBARA: --- and rolled up the rugs ---

MARIE: And danced.

BARBARA: --- and danced all night. And went home in the morning when it was daylight again.

MARIE: That's it. Oh, I can remember --- one thing I'll never forget. Finally, my folks bought a Ford.

I never knew whether that was a Model A or Model T. Anyway, I was about eleven, ten years old.

So, there would be a dance at Diamond, and Mom would put the flat irons on the stove and get them hot, and wrap them in papers and stuff. And she would wrap all the bedding around Charlie and I, and then put those old hot flat irons at our feet, you know. And then my dad would start cranking on that old Ford. And crank, and crank, and crank, this was wintertime, and it wouldn't go. And then she'd have to unload Charlie and I, and take us back in the house. He'd go down and hitch up the team, hook it on to that old Ford and pull it around and around. And pretty soon it would get started, and away he'd go to the dance.

DOROTHEA: It would have been just about as easy to take the team and wagon.

MARIE: And went. And then, at that big old potbelly stove up there at the dance hall. When we all begin to get sleepy, us kids --- there would just be pallets all around, you know. On the benches, kids asleep. And then the next morning --- I don't, I think they must have went out at night and started those cars.

DOROTHEA: The next morning anyway, you went home in the car.

MARIE: Oh cold, yes, went home in the cold.

DOROTHEA: They didn't have heaters, right?

MARIE: No, no. And they, there was isinglass in those --- there were canvas curtains, and there was isinglass in the window. And they got cold, and pretty soon they all cracked. Then I could remember,

years later, there would be three carloads of people get in those cars, kids and all. And they would drive clear to Crane to the dance. And the Diamond Grade out there, everybody pushed, pushed the cars almost all the way to Crane. Ruts that deep, you know. They'd get out, each guy, each carload, would help others push the car up the hill. Some great times!

DOROTHEA: That old doughy mud.

MARIE: Oh, yes.

DOROTHEA: Just like clay.

MARIE: Uh huh. There is something that I can remember back then I thought was nice. Had lots of parties at school, and all the grownups came. They would be spelling bees, and games, you know. All the grownups would come.

DOROTHEA: Did you have many plays?

MARIE: No, I didn't get into the --- Every Christmas, yes, I'll tell you one about me. We spoke poems and at --- had the community Christmas tree up in the dance hall. And I learned, "The Night Before Christmas," you know, "when all through the house." And then the next year if the teacher was different, I would grab onto that same poem, because I knew it. The next year, if she was different I would still speak, "The Night Before Christmas."

DOROTHEA: You took the easy part.

MARIE: Yes. Then didn't get into plays until I got into high school.

BARBARA: How many students about were there in grade school?

MARIE: Then, then I'd say there was twenty, twenty-five sometimes. Big school then.

DOROTHEA: All different grades.

MARIE: Uh huh. First through the eighth, one teacher taught them. And there was no teacherage.

BARBARA: They lived with different families?

MARIE: Uh huh. One teacher. When Donna was in school, she stayed with my mother. You remember some of them, Donna?

BARBARA: And they pretty much changed every year then? The teacher didn't stay much more than one year?

MARIE: Yes. Uh huh. They couldn't stand it much more than --- Then some old cowboy would get away with them, and marry them, you know.

BARBARA: Most of them would come right out of school and it would be their first year of teaching --

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MARIE: Yes. Right out of school.

BARBARA: --- and then they would find themselves a man and away they would go.

MARIE: Uh huh. Away they'd go. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Do you remember any of the names of your teachers?

MARIE: Oh, yes. Miss Duncan, that first one, I'll never forget. Helped me fix my torn dress. I'll never forget her. And there was Miss Smith, S M I T H. And Miss --- Gifford, Mrs. Gifford, she was a Mrs. She was the one that taught us the first year of high school out there. And, oh, different ones. There was a whole lot of different ones, can't remember. One man teacher. Have to think of his name, Rimer, Mr. Rimer. Only one man teacher.

DOROTHEA: How did you spell that?

MARIE: I think it was R H I M E R. Something like that.

DOROTHEA: I E M E R, something.

MARIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Did they have recesses when you were in school?

MARIE: Yes, fifteen minutes.

DOROTHEA: What did you do during the recesses?

MARIE: Played anti over, and run sheep run, and that where you run, and they pat you three times on the back, and you have to go to the other side. And then in the wintertime, the girls spent most of the time in the toilet. The boys made snowballs, and had them out there. And we'd go out there in a group, you know, and then the boys would keep us in there. Throwing the snowballs! (Laughter)

BARBARA: That wasn't much recess, was it?

MARIE: There was a great big porch, open porch, no top on it, and I can just see us. Everybody rode a horse, you know. And when we were smaller, it was hard; you know, from the ground up to reach

the stirrups. So, we would bring our old horses up there and get on the porch, and on we'd get. All of these wet overshoes, and mittens and things, just lined up around that big old stove to dry out.

BARBARA: How long did it take you to ride to school?

MARIE: Not too long, only about four miles.

BARBARA: I see.

MARIE: Four or five miles?

DOROTHEA: Today it's terrible for a kid to walk from here to the school. (Laughter)

MARIE: Yes, that's true.

DOROTHEA: Mom and Dad has to take them.

MARIE: Mom would put so many clothes on you in the winter you couldn't hardly move, you know, couldn't hardly get on your horse. I think that I hated them then, and now the kids wear a lot of-- you call them leotards now. But these was old black cotton.

BARBARA: Or dirty looking brown.

MARIE: Brown.

BARBARA: Yeah.

MARIE: Oh, I hated them with a passion.

DOROTHEA: See Barbara and I can relate to some of that too.

MARIE: Well then, I had long underwear on under that. And then those on, and overshoes, sweater, old coat. I'll tell you, you couldn't move when you get ---

DOROTHEA: Got so --- bundled you up.

BARBARA: Did your mother knit; did she make your sweaters?

MARIE: No, she didn't knit. She was a crocheter, and embroiderer.

BARBARA: Women did a lot of embroidery in the early days, didn't they?

MARIE: Oh, yes.

BARBARA: They did their tea towels and things like that.

MARIE: Everything.

BARBARA: Pillowcases.

MARIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Do you do embroidery work?

MARIE: I used to embroidery. My eyes bother me now, I can't see well enough.

DOROTHEA: Did you ever knit or crochet?

MARIE: I've tried to learn to knit here in the past three or four years, and I'm having a terrible time knitting. I can crochet some.

DOROTHEA: I never learned to crochet.

MARIE: You didn't?

DOROTHEA: But I can knit. But I can't crochet. What did you do to keep yourself entertained when you were out of school, like in the summertime?

MARIE: When we were smaller, seemed like there was always pets. Lambs to feed, and maybe a leppy calf. And we rode about five miles after the mail. The mail came into the Diamond Post Office three times a week, if I remember right. And we would ride up after the mail. And we'd have to go down in the field and get those saddle horses. And if he didn't want to be rode, he'd run from us. So that took a half a day to get them. And then we would ride to Diamond, get the mail. And then when we got older, a little bit older, you started doing a little work, you know. Worked in the hay fields, all these things.

DOROTHEA: Do a little cooking?

MARIE: Yes, my mother worked outside so much, and she would often make up the light bread, and she would put the beans on, and the meat to boil, and tell me what to do. Tell me when to peel the potatoes and put them on. When to make the bread out, you know. And I would do all that. I learned to cook pretty much that way. And then in those days, all the work was done with horses. And like in haying time, there'd be fifteen or more in the hay crew. And a lot of the ladies would let us girls come and help them, you know.

BARBARA: You would go around from ranch to ranch, and everybody helped each other out?

MARIE: Uh huh. Yes. And help them. And the first money I ever earned, I worked, raked hay in the hay fields. I have a camera yet that I bought. I bought a camera with it. Oh, I was so proud of that.

First money I ever earned. But when you worked at home, you didn't get money. And you thought nothing of it. You was glad to help your folks. I always was, glad to help them. Never got an allowance, or anything.

DOROTHEA: Did you eat a lot of beans?

MARIE: Oh, yes. Beans and potatoes and meat.

DOROTHEA: Every meal?

MARIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: That's the way it was at my house.

MARIE: Sourdough biscuits, and sourdough hotcakes.

DOROTHEA: And more hotcakes.

MARIE: And more, more.

DOROTHEA: And fried mush.

MARIE: Yes, and always mush. I went across to --- Martha Marx lives right katty-corner. You know what Donna, that day, she said, "What do you want?" I said, "I come over for sourdough hotcakes." We ate sourdough hotcakes for dinner, and boy they was good.

DOROTHEA: They do taste pretty good once in awhile. We had them as an every day diet.

MARIE: Oh, yes. And I can remember something Charley and I took to school. We would mash brown beans up with a fork, put some ketchup in them, put them on a piece of bread, that's a sandwich up at school.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, yeah, I remember that too. And I haven't been around here very long.

MARIE: No, you haven't.

BARBARA: Did you have milk cows too?

MARIE: Oh, yes.

BARBARA: Make butter? Did you make butter?

MARIE: Oh, butter, and cottage cheese.

DOROTHEA: How did you like your homemade cottage cheese?

MARIE: Good.

DOROTHEA: Yuk!

MARIE: You didn't like it? Well, I don't think back then I cared for it. More after I grew up. No ---

DOROTHEA: It seemed like it was so rubbery.

MARIE: Yeah. Cooked too long.

DOROTHEA: You would chew, and chew, and chew.

MARIE: Cooked too long. It would be cooked too much.

DOROTHEA: Lots of... though. Good for the chickens. Did you have chickens?

MARIE: Oh yes, the baby chickens liked cottage cheese, didn't they? (Laughter) Lots of chickens.

Mama always raised a garden.

DOROTHEA: Did you have a big canning all together, or ---

MARIE: No, no.

DOROTHEA: --- or did you just do your own canning? What all did you raise in your garden?

MARIE: Oh, she raised everything. Like beans, carrots, peas, potatoes, and onions.

DONNA: Peanuts.

MARIE: She raised peanuts up there one year. Cantaloupe, raspberries ---

BARBARA: The growing season must have been better than it is here now.

MARIE: It's warm, it's warmer out there than it is in Burns. Yeah, it's warmer.

DOROTHEA: When we went out to the Round Barn here, oh it was in, I think in October, something like that, you can tell the difference. You can almost feel the difference in the air.

MARIE: Uh huh. When we'd come in from Burns, to Burns, go back home in the summertime, hit the valley, it would just be so cool. It would be so hot in here. So, cool down in the valley. And in the winter, it's just the opposite, it'd be warm.

Well, I want to tell you something about the Round Barn. I imagine when they re-shingled it, you know when they fixed it up, up there on top there was a wooden, big round wooden thing that sat right there on top. And if they didn't, if they threw that old one away that was there, my initials was carved up there.

DOROTHEA: You crawled to the top of that?

MARIE: My dad took me up when I was a little girl, and carved my initials up there. But I imagine it is thrown away, and a new one put up when --- And I fell out of that wall. You looked up in there in the Round Barn?

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

MARIE: There used to be --- there was a house right there, and my folks lived there one winter. And my dad fed cattle. And there was boards crossed on that wall, and hay. And I was up there with my dad just running. And down I went, fell right through. There was one place there wasn't a board, and I fell down. Didn't hurt me though.

DOROTHEA: You must have played in that barn.

MARIE: Oh yeah.

BARBARA: How big of a loft was it in there? I don't --- I can't picture where it was.

MARIE: You can't picture it? Right in the --- the boards lay on that first ---

DOROTHEA: Laid just inside of the door where we could ... see the owl.

MARIE: Yes, yes.

DOROTHEA: --- those boards up there. That's about ---

MARIE: There isn't any there now, no boards there. You just look clear up to top.

DOROTHEA: Right on that one door there is.

MARIE: It is, uh huh, you can see.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. That must be --- there are some poles that stick out, and there is nothing on them. That must be what that was on was ---

MARIE: Uh huh. That's where they ---

DOROTHEA: --- was a loft.

MARIE: There was a loft there. And they would pitch a whole bunch of hay up in there that they put down in the mangers along there. There's not many mangers left in it anymore.

DOROTHEA: Huh uh, they are about all gone. Well, we were wondering when we were looking at pictures of that Round Barn, what that thing was sticking up on top of that. Is it an air vent, or --?

MARIE: It was --- I don't think so, it was a decoration that --- wherever the whole roof come up

there. They just --- it was a big round thing, about that round, and about that thick. And it just set there and finished the barn up, you know.

DOROTHEA: Oh, more or less ---

MARIE: Decoration.

DOROTHEA: Oh, just like a wind thing or something.

MARIE: Yes. No, it didn't turn.

DOROTHEA: It didn't --- I know what you're saying, but kind of like a wind, a horse on there.

MARIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: I have to listen to this right now. Did you keep many horses?

MARIE: Oh my, yes. When I was young, and these homesteading days, people then, they had horses like they have cattle now. That's what they made their living on, selling horses. They sold them to the armies and they --- My land; every machinery was pulled with horses. So, you had horses, horses, horses. And they had stallions and raised the little colts. Lots of horses, and not many cattle.

DOROTHEA: Did you have a lot of sheep?

MARIE: Now my mother, when my dad passed away, she didn't have the ranch. The ranch home there in Diamond wasn't paid for, so by that time they had some cattle too. And the horse business wasn't so; they weren't raising horses to sell. And she started out raising leppy lambs. I have a picture of her with her leppy lambs. Oh, there was lots of sheep was fed in Diamond then, and ranged on the mountain in the summer. And when they would have the lambing, you know, there would be lots of little leppy lambs. And Mom would go out and get those. And she finally got her herd up to five hundred.

DOROTHEA: Wow.

MARIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Do you have anything that you have to do this afternoon, or are you free?

MARIE: No, no.

DOROTHEA: Then, we'll go ahead. I'm going to turn this tape over.

SIDE B

MARIE: Oh, let's see. That was when Winona and Gene and Charlie and I, always a packing ---

DOROTHEA: What was the relationship?

MARIE: I told about it first. We was, my Uncle Corey and Aunt Minnie's kids. Gene and Winona Smyth. We were just like brother and sister. And we all lived there together. And our fathers helped Grandpa on the ranch. And seemed like we played all the time. We was always out --- through the summer we were always outside playing. We had every kind of a horse ranch there was. There was stick horses, and bottle horses, and seemed like that's all kids knew those days, was ranches and horses. And we used to take the old wagon and play like we were --- it was a cook wagon, you know. And we drove cattle, and then we --- at the back of the field there was a, there was water, no longer was in this big old deep ditch. And it was high, deep. And there was lots and lots of willows over there. And we used to go over there and ride our horses, and play hide and seek on our horses. We'd go into the big old deep ditch, and around the willows and hide from each other, right on our horses.

And then when haying time come, we followed all the machinery around out in the fields, seemed like. Especially the bunchers. When they'd moved a bunch of hay, why we'd have the dogs and they'd be lots of mice under there. They'd let the dogs kill the mice. We'd ride on when they'd move the slides, and the next haystack, where they were going to stack the hay was. We'd ride on the slide. And then also when haying was over, that old, so many loads of hay had went up over that slide, that it was just slick. It just shone. So, we'd get up to the top, and squat down on our heels and slide down. And boy, once in awhile you fell off, and there was a splinter back here too.

BARBARA: Oh, dear.

MARIE: Had to go to the house and have them picked out. (Laughter) Wasn't so much fun then. And we had --- they never let us run in the house. It was a big old house. And boy we loved to run in that house. But we weren't allowed to, you know. I can remember something else, when the mealtime come, there was always a lot of extra men around there. And if there was room enough for us at the table, we got to eat with the grownups. If there wasn't, we waited, had to wait until last. And we never talked. They always told us we was supposed to be seen, and not heard. Never said anything. Just

eat as fast as we could.

DOROTHEA: Age old adage, I think. Because I grew up with the same thing. My daughter-in-law doesn't understand why the women and children always waited until after the men had eaten.

MARIE: That's what you done then.

DOROTHEA: You know, I think I'm as good as they are.

MARIE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And I should eat at the same time. But I said, "Oh, no, it's just an old thing."

MARIE: Yeah, you had to wait. You didn't get to eat first. Now kids, you just let them eat first. Get them out of the way.

DOROTHEA: Did you play with many of those mice that was down in that hay?

MARIE: The boys did. But us girls didn't.

DOROTHEA: I hated mice.

MARIE: I did too! I hate them yet.

DOROTHEA: I always got the job of scooping up the grain. And they ---

MARIE: Those old mice in there. Wasn't it awful?

DOROTHEA: I hated those mice.

MARIE: I'll tell you another tale about --- should have added that on, what happened at school in the spring. The boys would take the water bucket, and they'd go to the creek or the pump, and they'd drowned out sage rats that was on the schoolyard. And they'd fix a string, had a little string with a loop over the hole, and when the poor old drowned sage rat came up, they'd get them, you know, by the neck. And then when he begin to come to, why here they would come after us girls. (Laughter) That rat!

DOROTHEA: Oh. Wander around with that rat. Ooh, yuk!!

MARIE: Oh, what else did we play? We played all the time. And this cellar roof, the cellar, they dug it down, you see. You had to go three steps from out of the kitchen to it. And they put sod that was just as pretty and green. And us kids just loved to run across that. But that's when we got in trouble. (Laughter) Again when we were ---

DOROTHEA: I think one of our favorite things to do in the winter time was to take our sleds that we had, and slide off of that cellar top, and down over the cellar door. And boy that old cellar door was just like ice, you know.

MARIE: Yeah. And just go.

DOROTHEA: And go zing. And you just go zinging across.

MARIE: Something else we done too in the winter was, hitched our sled to the, where they feed, the hayrack when they fed the cattle. They'd take us around. And you know, there was never any place to swim in those days. I look back upon that. We'd wade, but we never was in the water swimming.

DOROTHEA: There was probably leaches in the water. We used to go down and swim, and that's what we found, was a lot of leaches.

MARIE: And Diamond, that was later years, we dammed the creek up down below the house to make kind of a swimming place. Swim with our housedresses. Didn't have any swimming suits. (Laughter) Can't you see us?

BARBARA: I imagine they were nice and muddy looking when you got through, weren't they?

MARIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: That was the fun part to see who could get the blackest. Wade the deepest.

MARIE: Uh huh, uh huh.

BARBARA: Have to get in the washtub, and wash on a scrub board, did you?

MARIE: Bathed in that little tub, you know, that Mom washed the clothes in. And who is it that speaks that, you know, he was high --- just lives right over here ---

DOROTHEA: Oh.

MARIE: Higgins.

DOROTHEA: Higgins.

MARIE: His poem.

DOROTHEA: Don Higgins.

MARIE: Sure, sure the truth, that poem. The last one, he was last one in the --- and the water wasn't so clean.

DOROTHEA: Wasn't so warm either.

MARIE: No, it wasn't. Mom would put down the door to the oven, you know, let the heat come out on us. Yeah.

BARBARA: Once a week whether you needed it or not.

MARIE: Once --- I want to tell you something. I won't tell you who the lady was, I was sick in the hospital one time. And another lady in there, and she had company. And she said, she was talking to me about someone, and she said you know she was one of those Saturday night bathers. And that just struck me so funny. 'Course I had been a Saturday night bather long ago. (Laughter)

BARBARA: You duded up to go to the dance?

MARIE: Oh, yes. Oh ---

BARBARA: After your Saturday night bath.

MARIE: ...

DOROTHEA: Is any of the houses that you lived in left out in the Happy Valley area yet?

MARIE: My Grandpa Smyth's is.

DOROTHEA: Who is living in it now?

MARIE: No one.

DOROTHEA: No one.

MARIE: It belongs to Darrell and Thelma Otley. And their son Rob lives in the new house. You went by the old Smyth house when you went to the cemetery.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. They were doing some cattle work in there when we went by there.

MARIE: Uh huh. Yes, my mother was born in that house.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she was.

MARIE: And my brother was born there. Old Grandpa and Grandma ... was born. I tell you, it's been built on to. But it is the same house that they was born in. My brother was born there. And Winona was born there too, in that house.

BARBARA: Did they have a doctor, or midwife, or neighbor come help with the deliveries?

MARIE: No, not with Grandpa and Grandma's kids. Oh, it was my Grandma's mother-in-law was a

midwife. She was there to all the ones. She was the wife of George Smyth that got burned up. And she was the one that was, when they had the babies.

DOROTHEA: She was the one that they called on, huh?

MARIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Do you remember anything about Indians? Did you have any problems with the Indians?

MARIE: No. My Grandma, I've heard her tell, of course my Grandpa was real bitter. And he --- the Indians didn't come around for years. But she kept talking to him, she said, "It wasn't their fault." You took --- everyone, we had taken the land away from them, you know. So when I was about ten, and eleven, and in there, eight, nine, ten, the Indians would come every spring. And they camped right above that house of Grandpa and Grandma's. That strip of ground you went by, as you went to the cemetery, on your left.

And my Uncle Rye, he wasn't, he was a young man then. And when the Indians come, he'd gather us --- we was scared to death of the Indians, us kids, real. He'd take us up there. We'd go up there. And he'd gamble, some Indian gambling game. I don't know, with sticks, you know. And we'd just, of course we'd stay pretty close to him.

And then we got, I got acquainted with a little Indian girl that I played with a lot. Charlie and Gene played with a boy. I can't remember his name now, or I can't remember that little girl's name. And of course, sometimes, you know how the Indians do when they get drunk, and he was chief I think then. And his wife would come down to Grandpa and Grandmas and stay the night out, because he would be drunk. And he'd be going to cut her with a knife, you know.

And then one time, a baby was in its cradle, and it fell like that, into the hot coals. And they brought it down, and Grandma doctored it. So, the Indians was there a lot.

And after those, George and John Smyth were burned up by the Indians, one --- the chief that was killed that night, he was buried up there in the rim. I can take you out there and show you where it was. And my mother and her sister and brothers, years later, went up there and gathered beads out of the, off of that. Sounds so ugly to be taking them off of a dead person. Of course, the bones had all

gone. Nothing but beads, I guess.

DOROTHEA: Now that is all against the law.

MARIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: But, I know that the Indians, you know, are quite calm now.

MARIE: Oh, yes.

DOROTHEA: Compared to what they were even when I was growing up.

MARIE: Even now when I, we went up there, I played with that little girl, they were good then, they were calm.

DOROTHEA: I think that now they are being more educated.

MARIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: To where, you know, that they are trying to better themselves.

MARIE: Uh huh,

DOROTHEA: Which I'm really proud of, because you can see, just see so much change in all the Indians, and what's gone on.

MARIE: What --- oh puss, what are you doing? (Cat) Donna gets a kick out of the Indians, don't you Donna, that come to the --- when they're sick over here. She thinks they are interesting.

DOROTHEA: They are. They really are. We did some history on the Indians. And I read in the paper the other day where this lady is doing a history, an oral history project for someone. I'd like to get better acquainted with her, so that we could work together, you know.

MARIE: I wished I had saved my last Indian gloves that one of these Indians up, squaws made up here. They were white, and beaded. Prettiest things, you know, and they had the fringe on them.

DOROTHEA: We had an Indian fellow that lived out by us, out in Rye Grass there. That was how he paid for his eggs and things.

MARIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: He'd give us Indian gloves.

MARIE: Indian gloves.

DOROTHEA: Oh boy, they were pretty. We had long --- way back up to the elbow.

MARIE: That's why I'm sorry I didn't save them.

DOROTHEA: And all beaded.

MARIE: I wore them out.

DOROTHEA: They were so soft. They always smelled like smoke and salt. You could take them and touch them and they would be real salty.

MARIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: But they were gorgeous things.

MARIE: Uh huh. Then the Indians, after they camped there awhile, they'd go on up in the hills, mountains. They done that for years, don't do it anymore there, you see.

DOROTHEA: No, the younger generation has changed all that.

MARIE: It's changed.

DOROTHEA: Well, is there anything else that we possibly need to know about your history that might make good interesting publication for the paper? I'm sure we can write a story out of this. Did your folks go through some hard times when they were younger? I mean, you know, like really hard times, like most of our families did?

MARIE: Yes, I think so.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember any of those times?

MARIE: My --- I know a story about my father. He used to, his mother died when; I think he was seven or eight. And there was five of them. They were, different relatives took them. No, there was only five, I think. And he --- two of his uncles had homesteaded out here at Hampton Buttes, and they run horses. And he would tell about, he could --- by this time I think he was about twelve years old, by now. And they would make him work, he was kind of, he was small, real small for his age. And just work him to death. And when he'd, he'd be so tired when he come in for his meal, he would just lay his head down and go to sleep. And they whipped him, the one uncle, whipped him an awful lot.

And so, he got tired of it. And he said someone had gave him a suit of clothes that was two or three sizes too big for him. So, one night, he left all of his old clothes on, and put that suit on. And he caught a horse, saddle horse and saddled up and went toward Lakeview. Rode all night. And I'm so

sorry that I don't know what place he stopped at, come to.

Well anyway, I'll make a long story short. And he must have had relatives over there, or someone, and they taught him to ride racehorses. So, he rode horses, race horses down in California, and all over. That's why they call him Pony. Pony Moore. And he, he had a sad life, like. I thought it was anyway.

DOROTHEA: Did he ever get back with his other brothers?

MARIE: The one Ed was here in Burns. And then I had an Uncle Frank in Eugene. And they saw each other. And the youngest girl was really adopted. And my dad and Uncle Ed came by there one time, and knew where she was. Her name was Dillard then, and they stopped, and it seems as though she was the one that came to the door. And they said, "We're your brothers, we came to see you." And it made her mad, she said, "Oh no you're not my brothers. I only have one brother." Of course, it was the Dillard boy.

DOROTHEA: She must have been quite young.

MARIE: She was a baby, that's when their mother died, I think. Their mother died. So, then they came on over here, and my dad had an aunt --- well her last name is Riggs anyway. And he came here to Burns to see her. And someplace in the mix-up, he met my mother.

And Mom, she was kind of an outdoor person. She rode horse, and worked outside a lot. She had a --- she said they only went to school about six months out of the year, when she was a girl. And she tells one story; I think she was about thirteen. And my Grandmother run the, had the post office, Smith Post Office for a while. But it was S M I T H. But she had it there in her home. And my mother took the mail once a week to, well it was --- no, over to Mahons. It's where Delta Maupin lives now. Delta Jenkins. They called it, what did they call it? No, no, it's --- well it's over --- Do you know where Dorothy, no you don't know.

DONNA: No, I don't know where she lives.

MARIE: I'm trying to think what Jim Mahons post office was named. Mule. They called it Mule, the post office. And Mom would, this was wintertime, and she went over --- and when she come back, they went right by John Jenkins' home. And a blizzard hit, and just snowed and stormed, she couldn't

hardly see her way. And she stopped there. She said Mrs. Jenkins had her take her clothes off and dried them out, wouldn't let her go on. And once a week she took the mail over, rode horseback. Oh, it's more than thirty miles I think.

DOROTHEA: She did the pony express.

MARIE: Yes, she did the pony express.

BARBARA: Mahon. Is that M A H O N?

MARIE: Uh huh. Did you know Pearl Smyth? Burns, no, you wouldn't.

DOROTHEA: I did.

MARIE: She was Jim Mahon's, one of his daughters.

DOROTHEA: Oh, she was, uh huh.

MARIE: Pearl Mahon, yes. Mule was the name of the post office. He raised mules, Mr. Mahon did. Uh huh.

BARBARA: Well, what did you do mostly after you were married then?

MARIE: Well, I wandered around a little bit. Lived at Crane when Donna was about, until Donna was about three years old. And then that's when I went to Diamond with her, and her daddy went to California. And then so much of the time --- you know that was depression time. Anytime I could get to work, I worked. And my mother almost raised Donna.

BARBARA: I wondered, what did you do?

MARIE: Oh, go help somebody, cook the food --- hay hands. One lady at Frenchglen was sick, and she had an operation. And she had a little boy about six years old, so I stayed a long time with her. Cooked for her and her little boy, and her husband. And then I helped Wanda cook for hay crews. I was usually cooking for a hay crew in the summer, and like that. And then I worked for a hotel once. Tried to learn to cook. I had a failure in my hotel cooking though. Some reason or another, I couldn't get out those short orders. (Laughter) Seemed like you worked most of the time.

DOROTHEA: Did you, were you ever a nurse or ---

MARIE: No, no, no.

DOROTHEA: You didn't go into the nursing field. You let your daughter do that.

MARIE: Yes, I let her do that.

DOROTHEA: Can you tell us how many grandchildren you have?

MARIE: I have four, and nine great grandchildren. And one child, she done it all.

DOROTHEA: She done it all. Can you tell us some of their names?

MARIE: Yes. LaNeva Gilliam, oldest grandchild. She lives in San Antonio, Texas. And Judy Erwin, lives in Burns. And one grandson, Bill Winn, lives in Burns. And Sherri Young lives at Brothers, Oregon.

DOROTHEA: S H E R.

MARIE: E R R I. Or is it one R?

DONNA: R R I.

MARIE: I. And then my oldest grandchild is Marie Alene Winn. She passed away, Donna's oldest little girl, when she was about six, wasn't she?

DOROTHEA: Maria ---

MARIE: Alene.

DONNA: Marie. A L E N E.

MARIE: That was my namesake.

DOROTHEA: Winn.

MARIE: Nine great grandchildren.

DOROTHEA: Seven generations of you?

MARIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: Lived in Harney County. That's quite a fête, really.

MARIE: Lot of them was born here too.

DOROTHEA: Can you kind of describe the differences and the changes you've seen go through Harney County?

MARIE: It seems like a person my age has seen it all, haven't they?

DOROTHEA: No, because you're not too much older than we are, but that's ---

MARIE: From the horse days to the, from the horse days to the rockets going to the moon, isn't it?

BARBARA: Do you remember the first car ride you ever took?

MARIE: Oh, yes, I can. I threw up all the way from Happy Valley to Burns. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: No wonder you remember it.

MARIE: I was carsick. I didn't know what was the matter with me, but I was carsick. My brother, when we was up on the homestead got run over by some horses, and he had a concussion. So, by the time they got to the valley --- there was only about three cars in the country out there. And it was my great uncle's car. I can't even remember what kind it was. And he brought my mother and brother and I to Burns to the doctor. And that was my first car ride. Sick, sick, sick.

DOROTHEA: Real nice.

MARIE: Uh huh. Charlie was two, so I was seven. No, I'm five years older than he is. That's how old I was when I took my first car ride.

DOROTHEA: About seven? Can you remember some special times in your life? Christmas, Thanksgiving, birthdays?

MARIE: I can remember Christmas with a happy feeling, and a sad feeling. 'Cause seems like they had that community Christmas tree. Huge, up there in the dance hall, all decorated. And there would be, this one Christmas that this happened, these two beautiful dolls. Well, my doll was a rag doll about that long, old rag doll. Well, these dolls were those bisque, that was on the Christmas tree. And I sat back there and I thought maybe Santa Claus will surely bring one of them to me. But he didn't. But the girl, one of the girls that got that, one of those dolls, was my best friend yet today. And I got to hold that doll that night. She let me hold it, you know. (Laughter) But I never will forget that Christmas. And our Christmas at home was, we hung up our black or brown socks. We didn't have no fireplace either. We just hung them on a nail in the front room. (Laughter) And there never was too much in them.

BARBARA: Did you have candy and things like that in them?

MARIE: Yes. And I don't, remember --- and otherwise we didn't have oranges all year. There would be an orange in the toe of that sock. And the candy, I can see it yet. Did you ever hear about horehound candy?

DOROTHEA: Oh yes.

MARIE: And I didn't like it.

BARBARA: Awful. Awful.

MARIE: I didn't like it.

DOROTHEA: Oh, I love it.

MARIE: And my mother, 'til the day she died, when she could get candy, she wanted to get that old-style Christmas candy, the colored kind.

BARBARA: Hard candy.

DOROTHEA: It always had a better flavor than it does now though.

MARIE: Yes, yes.

DOROTHEA: You don't find that candy that tastes good, very seldom.

MARIE: And I can remember the first candy bar I ever tasted.

DOROTHEA: What kind was it?

MARIE: I think it was peppermint, and it was a round one. My dad came to Burns; I don't know how old I was. And I liked it so well that I would only nibble off about three little bites. And then I would save it for the next day. Eat just, oh, that was good, that candy bar.

DOROTHEA: Did you make many trips to Burns?

MARIE: No.

DOROTHEA: You didn't.

MARIE: At first, we came in a buggy. Never came to town very often.

DOROTHEA: Well, in those days though, where they had the community gatherings ---

MARIE: Uh huh, that's where they ---

DOROTHEA: --- you know, you didn't, you gathered there ---

MARIE: Yes, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: --- rather than coming on into town.

MARIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: After they got the highways and things, then it seemed like that's when they started to travel.

MARIE: When people got cars.

DOROTHEA: Did you do much traveling when you were a kid? I mean did you have close neighbors, and ---

MARIE: Well, there in Diamond we just would ride horseback to see each other.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARIE: Not much traveling, no.

DOROTHEA: You didn't visit much?

MARIE: Well now, Thanksgiving for years we went to my Grandpa and Grandma's home. The whole gang, you know. All of the brothers, and sisters, and cousins, and aunts, and uncles. Have a big dinner, some arguments.

BARBARA: Whose story was the best?

MARIE: Yeah.

BARBARA: Did you have church services in the community hall, or some place?

MARIE: No. Now that was something. I can remember the first time I ever knew about church, was in Diamond. And I don't know how old I was. And there was a minister; I don't know what denomination he was or anything. But he kind of scared you. Pounded his fist on the desk. It was in the schoolhouse.

BARBARA: Fire and brimstone.

MARIE: Uh huh. Yes. I can remember that. It was the first time I ever --- but some place along the way, my Grandma Smyth was the one that had come from a religious family. And she must have been the one that I would hear about religion. Because all my life I have known there was a hereafter and that. And I can't tell anybody how I knew it, but I knew.

BARBARA: You didn't have Bible readings and things like that in your homes?

MARIE: No, no. But, Grandma had a Bible, I remember. And I think she is the one that must have did some teaching. I think so, because I knew that without a doubt, you know.

DOROTHEA: When you were young and sat around the table, before you started eating, did everyone wait for the other one to start eating?

MARIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Did they say grace before the meal?

MARIE: No, they didn't, because they weren't a religious family. But everybody sat down, and then the food was passed around. The same direction.

DOROTHEA: This is what you find in so many of the families today. They never eat together.

MARIE: Oh, yeah, I know that.

DOROTHEA: They eat all over the house.

MARIE: They eat every place, and at all times.

BARBARA: In front of the television.

MARIE: Uh huh, oh yes.

DOROTHEA: In front of television, a lot.

MARIE: That's for sure.

DOROTHEA: I know we always sat down. And this is one thing that my son is teaching his kids, which I really think ---

MARIE: To eat together.

DOROTHEA: --- is to eat together, they pray together.

MARIE: That's nice.

DOROTHEA: The kids say grace, and ---

MARIE: Now Billy's little family, we went down last night, Donna worked yesterday. Went down to Judy's, cooked a little dinner. And they always say a prayer before, grace before they, everybody waits.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, this is one thing my mother did when we were kids, when she brought us up that way.

MARIE: It's nice.

DOROTHEA: We always sat around the table and waited until everyone was seated before we ever started eating.

MARIE: Uh huh, uh huh. Yes.

DOROTHEA: So many families you go to now ---

MARIE: Uh huh, they don't.

DOROTHEA: --- they don't.

MARIE: They just reach over, and fill their plates, you know.

DOROTHEA: The minute they sit down they are eating. They don't wait for anybody.

MARIE: Uh huh. Nope.

BARBARA: After you were married, did you do any traveling?

MARIE: No, no we didn't. After Jim passed away --- see Donna's dad remarried, and I remarried.

And then Jim was my last husband, that's when we lived down ---

BARBARA: On Broadway there.

MARIE: Uh huh. He passed away right down there. And then --- now my mother and I went to California two times. We went to San Francisco, and we went to Los Angeles. My brother lived there, and his wife then. And then Donna and I went to San Antonio to a grandson's, my oldest great grandchild's high school graduation. Donna is going this year to his sisters. I'm kind of feeble now; I don't get around so good. So, I'll stay put. No, I never did get ---

BARBARA: So, you mostly just stayed around home then?

MARIE: Uh huh, just stayed in Harney County. (Laughter) Just in Harney --- You know when you get ready to travel, is when you retire, and that's usually when one of you is gone.

BARBARA: Seems that way anymore, doesn't it?

MARIE: I know Jim and I had a --- we was going to get us a trailer, little trailer house and go places. We went to the Yellowstone Park, drove around one summer. And then we went to Yosemite, Jim and I did.

BARBARA: What was Jim's line of work?

MARIE: He just, rancher.

BARBARA: Rancher.

MARIE: Yeah, rancher.

DOROTHEA: Can you remember some of the people he worked with?

MARIE: Oh ---

DOROTHEA: In other words, for any one special family, for quite awhile, or ---

MARIE: Well.

DOROTHEA: At different ranches.

MARIE: Well, worked out at Roaring Springs. As I said, Joe Fine was the boss then. Worked at Home Creek, and Roaring Springs. And then I worked in Diamond for Fred and Pearl Smyth on a ranch. And I worked at Barton Lake for the Jenkins brothers, Tommy and Dick Jenkins. And Eleanor was the new --- Tommy's wife, do you know Eleanor?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

MARIE: She and Tommy hadn't been married long, there. She wasn't too familiar with the ranch, you know. She used to come and get me. She said, "I want to watch you butcher a beef. I've never seen it." And I would go with her. And then we rode on the old combine one day. She wanted to go out and see how that was done. And worked there for quite awhile.

DONNA: ...

MARIE: Oh yes, took care of my Grandpa and Grandma there at Happy Valley quite a lot. Then finally moved to my own home in Diamond.

DOROTHEA: How long did you live there?

MARIE: Oh gee, Donna will have to help me figure. Went there when ---

DONNA: ... before Jimmy died.

MARIE: Yeah, just the winter, he passed away that spring we moved up there. '67 to --- no, what was that?

DONNA: He died in '44, and you sold out in '67.

MARIE: And we sold in '67. From '44 to '67.

DOROTHEA: That would be twenty-three years.

MARIE: We lived on our home there.

DOROTHEA: Was he killed or ---

MARIE: Had leukemia.

DOROTHEA: Had leukemia.

MARIE: And then what happened, so proud of this old home, you know. And fixed the little old house up, and had a prettiest yard you ever seen. Two apricot trees, and an apple tree, and strawberries, and this and that. And old-fashioned willow corrals, you know. And Delmer McLean bought it from us, and he just took a bulldozer, and bulldozed my old home and corrals, and everything down. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Made you cry?

MARIE: Yes.

DOROTHEA: Boy, I guess you did. That would make a person sick.

MARIE: Yes. See he bought my mother's and brother's, and our place all together. And they lived at Mom's place. Built a new home there. He told Jim and I beforehand, the yard was so pretty, he said, "I'll never keep this yard. I'll never keep two yards." He didn't, he didn't keep the house or nothing. (Laughter) And in the yard, where all this strawberries, and my beautiful yard, he said --- turned his cows in there. Oh, gosh.

BARBARA: Oh, dear. Strange isn't it?

MARIE: There is a change. You was wanting to know what changes happened.

DOROTHEA: Well, that's changes.

MARIE: Oh.

BARBARA: So, you moved into Burns when ...

MARIE: That's right. Uh huh.

BARBARA: To the house on North Broadway?

MARIE: Uh huh. That was when we came in. I'll never forget when we come in. Jim said, "You better get some," it was the first of October. He said, "You better get some candy. Halloween is coming up." I said, "Oh, nobody knows us up here, they're not---" You ought to have seen the kids that come around. There was---

DOROTHEA: Did you turn your light out?

MARIE: No. Little boy come. I gave him some candy. Little while went by, little boy come again. I gave --- the third time I told Jim, "That's the same little boy." (Laughter) And he lived right there by ---

he was the cutest. What was their names, Donna? I'll never forget him. He was ---

DONNA: Chip.

MARIE: Huh?

DONNA: You mean Atkins?

MARIE: Atkins.

DONNA: Oh, John.

MARIE: John Atkins.

BARBARA: He must have liked what you were giving out.

MARIE: Yeah, and he was sure fooling me, you know. Soon I caught on --- that was --- he was just a little rascal. He was so cute.

BARBARA: Then Helen Felt lived across the street.

MARIE: Across --- and Helen and I used to visit, and visit.

DOROTHEA: Who is in there?

BARBARA: Mr. Knight.

MARIE: Knight. Uh huh. Where do you live now?

BARBARA: I still live in the same place.

MARIE: You do.

BARBARA: Uh huh, yeah.

MARIE: And Bill and Betty ---

BARBARA: Delaney.

MARIE: --- lived ---

BARBARA: Jim and Martha Brown.

MARIE: Yes. Who bought my house, this last time?

BARBARA: It's the state policeman. I'm not sure what his last name is. I haven't met them.

MARIE: The other folks built another big room on that house.

BARBARA: Yes, uh huh. That was Sayres, uh huh.

MARIE: Sayres. That was the funniest thing. You can sell a house and never see the people you sell

to.

DOROTHEA: That's right.

MARIE: I never did see him. He bought that house, and I never did even see him. And I saw her the last day. She was at Bradeen's place. ... That's the funniest thing how you can sell to someone and never ...

DOROTHEA: Well, I think we could probably sit here and visit all afternoon.

MARIE: Oh, yes.

DOROTHEA: But my little machine says beep, beep, and that means

MARIE: That means ---

DOROTHEA: --- we have to cut off.

MARIE: That means stop.

DOROTHEA: We would like to thank you for this afternoon. And you've given us a lot of nice stories.

MARIE: Oh, I could talk on forever about old things.

DOROTHEA: This is one of those that we like to do.

MARIE: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: It's real interesting. And you've given us some laughs, and some fun, and some sad stories. So, we'll put it all together, and see what we come up with. Thank you, Marie.

MARIE: You're welcome.

(END OF TAPE)

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