

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #257 - Sides A & B

Subject: Joe & Mabel Altnow (With Video)

Place: Altnow Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: December 6, 1989

Interviewers: Dorothea Purdy & Barbara Lofgren

DOROTHEA PURDY: The date is December 6th, 1989, in Burns, Oregon. Barbara Lofgren and I will do some videoing at the latter part of the interview. Now Joe, can you tell me your name and where you were born?

JOE ALTNOW: My name is --- do you want my full name, or just --- my name is Joseph William Altnow. I was born at Drewsey, November the 4th, 1913. I'm a third generation Altnow, on the ranch.

DOROTHEA: What were your parent's names?

JOE: Loretta Belle Altnow, and Albert Henry Altnow.

DOROTHEA: And were they pioneers of Harney County, or ---

JOE: Yes, my father was.

DOROTHEA: Did they --- your father was.

JOE: My mother was from Malheur County.

DOROTHEA: Did they homestead, or where ---

JOE: No, the ranch was already there when they were married and moved there.

DOROTHEA: Did they buy a ranch from somebody then?

JOE: No, Grandpa Altnow, it was Grandpa Altnow's ranch. And he willed it to Albert and Belle when he died.

DOROTHEA: Is that where you lived then? When did you take over the ranch?

JOE: 1942. April 1942.

DOROTHEA: And what did your parents do?

JOE: They were retired.

DOROTHEA: Just retired.

JOE: I just --- I came home to take care of them. My father was, he was --- my father was quite a lot older than my mother, and he was 69 when I came back to the ranch. He lived ten years after I came back. I spent my younger years on the ranch, then I left. It was depression, and circumstances ---

DOROTHEA: And did you go into the service and spend some time in the service?

JOE: No, I --- after my senior year in high school I went to Vancouver Barracks under Brigadier General Wolf and took schooling, took military schooling. And then I came back from there and I stayed at the ranch. And then when they started the Beulah Dam, I worked on the Beulah Dam until it was finished. I did take part of a year of college in Portland at Pacific University.

DOROTHEA: And where did you meet Mabel?

JOE: I went to high school with her.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you did?

JOE: Yes, I started going with Mabel, see my junior year. And of course Mabel was one year ahead of me in school, it was her senior year. And then after school, why we both went to Portland to school. And I ran out of money and she didn't.

I came back to Eastern Oregon, and she stayed down there and got her education and went to work in Portland. Then --- when I worked on the Beulah Dam until it was finished. Then I had some money, and had a new car, so I decided to go to Portland and then spend some time until this construction company had another job in Leadville, Colorado, and they wanted me to come there. And so I went to Portland to kill this time. I

got to going with Mabel again. Of all the years between our high school years and then we went separate ways. Might go for six months or a year I'd never hear from Mabel, never see her. Once in awhile she would write me a letter, I'd answer. And then when I got in Portland, why things got serious again. So I decided I didn't want to go to Colorado. I wanted to stay in Portland.

And I got a job with Windolph Motor Company, Pontiac dealers. They were the largest Pontiac dealer west of the Mississippi. Well I started in on the lube rack, and I stayed with them a little over four years, between four and five years. And when I left, I was assistant manager. So I went to school, General Motors School, studied. I wanted to climb the ladder.

And I came back to Eastern Oregon deer hunting in '41, and my brother-in-law Denny Jones that is married to my sister, he said, "Joe, why don't you come back and save the ranch?" Because the folks were going to lose it. They owed a lot of money on it, and everything. Mabel and I had a new car, we had some money in the bank, we had a brand new home in Portland, and it was quite a challenge. So we took that challenge.

And for a while I didn't know if Mabel was going to stay in Eastern Oregon or not. Leaving her modern home, going to an old ranch house, outside privy, and just cold water in the house. But she stayed, and through that, we had two fine boys.

But that's the --- that's --- my father, let's see, he died in '52 I think it was. And then my mother, I'd have to look up and see when my mother died, I have it here in my pocket. Am I going to fast for you?

DOROTHEA: No, you sound like you're doing a real good job. And I'm real interested. Can you tell us some of the stories that you can remember maybe as a child growing up?

Did you grow up on the ranch?

JOE: Yes I did, and being no neighbors, anybody close, why my sister made a deal with

me. She says, "You play girl with me until noon, and I'll play boy with you in the afternoon." So it was in haying, and I was the girl. And we had a big porch, all closed in, and I was in the swing swinging. And here come the hired men in. I was dressed up as this cute little girl. One of the hired men came by, and I heard him say to the other one, gee I thought that was a girl out there, but I could see that it was a boy. She forgot to put her panties on. (Laughter) That was the last of my playing girl with my sister.

And my father, he bought one of the first Fords, Archie McGowan, in the first loads that Archie McGowan got into Burns. And he took a --- he bought a 1913 Model-T. And they unloaded it at Juntura. Well they --- of course I can't remember this, that was the year I was born. But they tell us; he was going to drive it down there and everything, so he drove it home. He had about eighteen miles to come home over country roads. And they had a board gate that come into the ranch. And when he got to that gate, he got excited and he couldn't stop it. And he just sat back and pulled on the steering wheel and said, "Whoa, whoa you sons of bitch, whoa!" And drove right on through the gate. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: When did he finally find that you either had to turn the motor off, or push some buttons?

JOE: That's right.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Or run out of gas.

JOE: That's right.

DOROTHEA: Drive around and around in circles.

JOE: Of course my --- we kept the Ford for six years, until 1919, he bought an Oldsmobile. Of course my memories of those, those Model-T Fords, we went someplace on all kinds of roads. Why if you come to someplace that it wouldn't feed gas, you backed up the hill so it would feed gas in the carburetor. I remember him backing up a lot of the

hills.

And my mother's folks lived at Westfall and we'd go to Westfall in that old Model-A --- or Model-T every once in awhile. And Dad would always take a lining for the transmission, and he'd take a lining from the harness on the reins to the harness and take it. Sometimes we'd have to stop on the road and he'd have to re-line the transmission so we could get down there. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Isn't that something.

DOROTHEA: How long did it take you to make a trip like that?

JOE: Well, when my dad was in Ontario, this was before I was born, his father took sick and he was down there with a team of horses. A four-horse team of horses I think, after a big load of groceries for the year. They'd buy their groceries for the full year. And they got word to him that his father was about to die. And they'd come out --- there was a Buick dealer there, just come out with the new Buick. And my dad hired him to take him to the ranch. And, let's see, they had seven flat tires on the road. And he charged him a hundred and twenty-five dollars for the trip. And my father could have taken a trotting team, rented a trotting team for twenty-five dollars, and made it in less than half the time than he did in the car.

DOROTHEA: I understand that that was quite a challenge to go across the desert ---

JOE: Oh, you bet it was.

DOROTHEA: --- you know. I don't envy the people having to change those tires, and having to fix every one of them.

JOE: No, that old hand pump, you know, pump everyone up by hand. But that was the way of life for a long time. Then of course, I learned to drive real young. I was very automotive minded, and I learned to drive the old Oldsmobile, let's see probably 19 --- probably '21. I was probably seven, eight years old when I learned to drive the

Oldsmobile. I would set in it and play all day long, shift gears and things. So when they got ready for me to drive, boy I knew how to work everything. (Laughter) So then they bought a 1924 Chevrolet.

And Mabel --- my sister and I, Mildred and I we rode two miles to school. Now when I first started, my first year of schooling was in the bunkhouse at the ranch. I took my first grade to a teacher there, because it was closer than anyplace else. And the teacher boarded at the ranch. Then the next year I went to school in Drewsey, and there was fifty-two children in that one room, and one teacher! And I'll tell you, being a little second grader, I learned just about everything in the book.

BARBARA: That's unusual though for a country school, really to have that many students. It wasn't ---

JOE: Yeah, it was so long ago. And I went that one-year, and of course I didn't learn anything that year. And my sister, they started us to school together. She was older, nineteen months older than I was, and they wanted us to go to school together, so they held her out. She made, she made two grades in that year, when I did so poorly. And so then she was a grade ahead of me all the time. So then we rode two miles to school a horseback. We packed our lunches in what they called --- my father smoked Pedro tobacco and they come in cans about a foot long and six inches high. And we packed it a horseback. And we rode those two miles. We had six gates to go through. But they had every gate fixed so we could open and shut them a horseback. Because if we got off, we couldn't get back on. They put us on at home, and we had to stay on until we got to school. And then the big boys took care of our horses at school. And when we left there, why it was until we got home. So we did that. And then we drove a buggy. We drove a real nice little buggy for one year. A real nice buggy we drove after we got over here.

BARBARA: Then did you finish your grade school in Drewsey?

JOE: I went to the --- Mildred finished her grade school there, the eighth. And I was still in the seventh. So then I went to school in Crane, because she went to high school there. And I took eighth grade under Alma Quier ... She was a fine teacher.

BARBARA: Eleanor?

JOE: Alma.

BARBARA: Alma.

JOE: Alma Quier. Dewy Quier's wife.

DOROTHEA: She taught in Burns after awhile didn't she?

JOE: Yes she did, yes. She was a wonderful teacher. I learned a lot from her.

BARBARA: And was there a dormitory there at that time?

JOE: No, we boarded out while --- we rented homes, and --- no there wasn't there at all. We rented a house and my grandparents; my living grandparents stayed with us and kept us until my sister graduated. And then I boarded out in a private home my last year of school.

DOROTHEA: And this was in Crane?

JOE: Yes.

BARBARA: And then did your grandparents go back to the ranch then?

JOE: Yes, my grandfather --- they went from there to Redmond. And --- well they went to Bend first, and he worked in the mill, my grandfather did. And they went from there to, down to Redmond, and that's where he died.

But my other grandparents, which --- whom I never saw, they were Germans. They came from; they came from Berlin to Minnesota. And they didn't know each other then, and he fought in Sherman's

MABEL ALTNOW: March to the sea.

JOE: March to the sea. He was --- fought for the north. And he was in Sherman's march to the sea. And he came out as a lieutenant. And he always --- they were Germans, and had a sense of humor. And they always asked him how he met Matildee. Mathilda was her name. He called her Matildee. He said, "Well," he said, "you know," he says, "they have those two-holed toilets". He says, "I was in one, and Matildee was in the other side." And he said, "I thought I would see who was over there." And he said, "I stuck my head down there, and she had her head down there, and I said, hello." So we started a going together! (Laughter) You might want to erase that. (Laughter) But anyway they ---

BARBARA: And what was his name?

JOE: William.

BARBARA: William.

JOE: Uh huh. William John. And hers was Mathilda, Mathilda ---

MABEL: I can't remember the other name.

JOE: And I could have looked it up. But they ---

MABEL: We'll show you their pictures later.

JOE: They built; they hauled the lumber for the ranch house from Canyon City, and built the home. And he had, they had one of the nicest homes in Harney County at that time. Of course it wasn't Harney County then. He --- it was Grant County.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JOE: And you see they settled, he went, what they did when they came from Minnesota, then they left Minnesota and they went down the Mississippi by boat or barge, whichever they had in those days. Then they crossed the Panama Canal where the, crossed the Panama where the Panama Canal.

MABEL: You may want to give her this --- or were you going to write that down?

DOROTHEA: Yeah, we'll get some more after bit.

JOE: Then they crossed where the Panama Canal is now by mule train. Then they came up to San Francisco. Then from San Francisco they came to Arlington. They settled about where the Drewsee were settled now. ... a few years ago. Then from there they came to John Day, and then in the meantime --- had a ranch in John Day. And in the meantime then they opened up Otis Valley from the Indians. That was probably in the '80's, or '78, '79. Then they moved, they came over there and he looked the country over, and he was the only person over there. He passed up all the prairie meadows. He saw those springs, and all that land was in greasewood and salt grass. And he visioned what he could do. And everybody said he would go broke. But he stayed there and made a real success of it for those kind of times. He washed all that ground, put all alfalfa. Built the home, I believe it was eleven or thirteen room house. And then he doesn't show as a commissioner of the county court or anything, but when he was --- he wasn't elected, when they evidently, they formed two counties, and he was appointed commissioner of Harney County. How long he served, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: And this is your grandfather?

JOE: That was grandfather Altnow. And he died --- Mathilda died before, I don't know what year she died. It was about 1908 or '09 I think. Then he died 1911.

BARBARA: And how many children did they have?

JOE: Oh, gee, let's see Ina, and her sister. Help me out.

MABEL: Two girls.

JOE: Yeah, two girls.

MABEL: And two boys.

JOE: Yes, two girls and two boys. And then he adopted two boys. He adopted two children. He raised an Indian boy, and he raised another boy. Adopted the two children. And then when he died, see Dad had a brother, Bill Altnow, and he had set him up on a

ranch, Grandpa Altnow had. And that boy had that ranch clear. And he left the ranch at home clear to my father. So, and he left each girls at that time, I think he left the two girls thirty some hundred dollars apiece. So I mean, in those kind --- in the 1900's, he had done all right.

DOROTHEA: Yes.

MABEL: They were pretty well to do.

DOROTHEA: You bet.

BARBARA: And did they have cattle?

JOE: Yes. And run lots of horses. Grandpa ... the horses. And they took better care of, really their horses than they did their cattle. They raised hay in winter ... home. And all their cattle, they turned out down below Juntura, what they call Jonesboro. And they'd go down there in the spring, and they'd say well we'll just start branding calves. And the Altnow's would --- we'll say Altnow's have got 200, and this outfit's got 200, and the PLS Company's got a 1000. They just brand calves. That's the way they did it until they got those numbers. Of course there was a lot of mistakes made, but they just forgot them.

DOROTHEA: They sure don't do that kind of stuff now, do they?

JOE: No, they don't, I'll say they don't. (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: You have to fight for everyone you've got.

JOE: Right.

MABEL: We fight first, don't we?

BARBARA: This bloodline is mine, not yours.

JOE: And I can give you a run down on what I did after I came back to Eastern Oregon, pretty much. What I did for Harney County, a few things, if you're interested.

BARBARA: You bet.

DOROTHEA: You bet.

BARBARA: So you have just the one sister then?

JOE: Yes, just the one.

BARBARA: And is she still living?

JOE: Yes, she is married to Denny Jones, Representative Denny Jones.

BARBARA: I see.

JOE: And they live in Ontario.

BARBARA: Ontario. And do they have children?

JOE: Yes, they have a, Gene and Karen.

MABEL: A girl and a boy.

JOE: A boy and a girl. And Karen owns the nursing home.

BARBARA: Oh, Karen Dinsmore, okay.

JOE: You probably know her.

BARBARA: Okay, uh huh.

JOE: I had another sheet of paper I thought.

MABEL: Kind of nice having a niece though.

BARBARA: A little family around.

MABEL: Yeah, yeah.

DOROTHEA: Where does Gene live now?

JOE: Gene lives in Ontario, and Denny lives, Denny Jones, the father lives in Ontario. But they still have the ranch in Jonesboro.

DOROTHEA: Did one of the kids run that?

JOE: Yes, the grand --- one of the grandboys.

MABEL: And Denny. He's up there more than he's ---

JOE: Yes, Denny is 78 years old, and my gosh he's up there just --- seems like all the time.

MABEL: When he isn't at the legislature, he's probably up at the ranch.

BARBARA: Probably a good release for him.

MABEL: Oh, he just --- that's his life. And she stays down home. Or else she goes up, whichever she wants to do, that's all there is to it. She just knows that's the way it has to be.

JOE: Just when --- that's when I went to that military school. I was supposed to be 17 when I went to that military school, but I lied about my age, I wanted to go. And I told them I was 17. I was actually 16. It was quite an experience for a country kid that had never been in a big city at all. I was shipped out here, and went to Vancouver Barracks. Eight hundred of us kids. They had eight hundred there. Of course at that time Vancouver was the main barracks in the United States. And I learned a lot of good things, and I learned a lot of bad things there. I should have stayed with it every year, and I would have been a 2nd Lieutenant. But ---

BARBARA: So this was kind of a reserve outfit?

JOE: Yes, it was just like sending us to ROTC.

BARBARA: Okay.

JOE: And ---

BARBARA: So you didn't have to sign up for so many years ---

JOE: No.

BARBARA: --- or anything like that?

JOE: But I saw some of the best polo games that were ever played. They had one of the finest polo teams, and --- Well there was, I don't know how many thousands there was in the barracks. We were under their command, we --- our officers were right out of there. And we had the old wrap leggings, and the little old tiny hat on our head. And just before I went down there, Mabel had the mumps. So I got the mumps while I was down there!

(Laughter)

BARBARA: I wonder why. (Laughter)

MABEL: He was keeping it to himself, that's for sure.

JOE: I didn't want to tell anybody, because they were high, you know like they really started down on me, and they couldn't go past that collar. So they went up, they went right up about here. And the corporal of our tent, he looked at me once and he says, "Joe," he says, "your face," he says, "I never noticed but isn't your face all swollen on that side?" And I don't recall his name, but I said, "Yes," but I says, "it's from an injury I had when I was a small boy." (Laughter) But they'd have quarantined me by the time I hit camp, you know, and I wasn't about to ---

BARBARA: How many others came down with the mumps then?

JOE: I don't know.

MABEL: He didn't try to find out.

BARBARA: Oh, goodness.

JOE: But it was a great experience for just a country kid. And you probably know him, Gene Smyth, he used to live at ---

MABEL: Diamond. Rye Smyth's son.

JOE: Corey Smyth and ---

DOROTHEA: I know him, yeah.

JOE: He was the boy that went with me.

BARBARA: How did you happen to hear about this, to be interested in going over there?

JOE: Oh, our principal was a Price, and he liked me real well, and he taught me ... it would be a good experience for you Joe. That's the reason I went. And I was very grateful to him, that I had ---

MABEL: Well he was able to convince your parents too.

JOE: Yes.

BARBARA: This was right out of high school, just as soon as you got out of high school?

JOE: I had one more year of high school when I came back.

BARBARA: Oh, so at the end of your junior year you went to the military.

JOE: Yes.

BARBARA: And then you came back.

JOE: We came back and finished school.

BARBARA: And finished school. Oh, that's interesting.

JOE: And then we got back to the ranch and of course we had a lot of hardships. Maybe you'd like to hear about the hardships we had.

BARBARA: Sure.

JOE: We came back to the ranch; we sold our house in Portland.

MABEL: A brand new home.

JOE: We had a brand new car, a brand new home, and we went down and bought a brand new pickup. And so Mabel says, "Well, that's it. What we have left in the bank goes to the house for me." So we came back, and gosh, there was my parents, my grandmother, and Mabel all in the same house, under one roof. Now you ladies can imagine what that was like.

BARBARA: Too many cooks in the kitchen. (Laughter)

JOE: So, and so by then the war had started, World War II. But I came to Burns and they let me get a permit to build a house. So we built our home. And we lived together for eight years, and Mabel had never gotten pregnant. So she says, if I'm going to stay here, I'm going to have to have a child. So she went to one of the best gynecologists on the coast, and he found out what was wrong, and we had Gary. He was born in '44. Then she --- they said you'll never have another one. So she gave things away, and things

away. And then Eleanor Howard, when they adopted their first child, why she and Eleanor were awful close, and she said, "I'm going to give Eleanor my baby bed." That was the last thing she had. She gave the baby bed to Eleanor. And two months later she said, "Joe, I'm pregnant." (Laughter)

DOROTHEA: That's what they always said happens; so don't ever give your baby stuff away.

JOE: Of course Mabel was getting close to forty years of age then, because we weren't married young. And then eight years before Gary come along, and six years before the other one come along.

BARBARA: We might back up just a little bit, when did you get married?

JOE: In '36. We were married in, we were married in Bend. The reason we were married in Bend, so the relatives from this country could meet us, we were married in Bend.

MABEL: And your grandparents were there too.

JOE: Uh huh. There were quite a lot of relatives.

BARBARA: So you were working in Portland at that time?

JOE: Yes.

BARBARA: So you came to Bend.

JOE: I was in Portland.

MABEL: They came over here.

JOE: Let's see, oh they finished the dam in --- I and one other boy were the last two men to leave the dam. We drove the last two pieces of equipment to Juntura and loaded on the flatcars to take out. They liked me real well, and they wanted me to come with them. Says just as soon as we get another job we will. And it was an enticing job for me. Of course things were different. When I went to work at the dam, I got fifty cents an hour, and worked seven hours a day. This was Roosevelt's plan. And it cost us \$36.00 a

month to board. So you see they took a pretty good chunk of your money just to --- But I did everything, I wanted a job.

I had seen tough times at home. At home there why there was times that if it hadn't been for the milk cow, my sister and I milked, and the cream check --- we wouldn't have had groceries lots of times probably. And I wanted to get out and do something on my own. I did everything. I drove truck, I tied steel, I mixed steel, I did everything that they asked me to do. And so I had --- they did like me, and then when they got to Colorado and got this job they wrote me a letter and said, "Joe, you can come to work for us and work seven days a week, twelve hours a day if you want to." That was more wages than I ever thought I would ever get. Well, but in the meantime I had asked her to marry me. Or I was getting interested, I was getting interested, you know.

BARBARA: In the back of your mind though.

JOE: But, so then when we came to Eastern Oregon it was pretty rough. But we got our house built, and Mabel got pregnant. We had Gary. And let's see, Albert was just a baby, and Gary got kicked with a horse. Kicked him right on the side here (face). Took, let's see, went right around this eye here, pushed his nose over here, laid his brain open. This was March 17th, I believe it was. And I had, Ontario, I took out and headed for Ontario with him. I picked Sam Burt up in Drewsey, and Sam held him on the back seat. Let's see, Gary was five years old. And went to Ontario, and it was just fortunate that Dr. Palmer was one of the best surgeons on the Pacific Coast. He'd been to Chicago at Mayo Brothers, and he'd just come back the night before. And he fixed Gary up. The only thing I wished he hadn't done yet, he called me in when he got ready to work on Gary. Here he was just white as a sheet ... And of course to this day, I can still see his face just as clear as --- He didn't lose his eye, and he lost all of his teeth, baby teeth and all of them. His upper mouth was just like a piece of mush. And --- but he came out of it,

and he's had a pretty good life.

DOROTHEA: And they did this in Ontario?

JOE: They did this in Ontario.

MABEL: Dr. Palmer.

JOE: Dr. Palmer. He was well ---

MABEL: He was one of the best known on the coast.

JOE: I know when they took the bandages off of his face, now they said, if he don't --- I'll cover his good eye, if he doesn't see you, said don't you say a thing. But he could see us, so --- When we brought him up, his brain was showing right in here, right along this eye, right there.

MABEL: His face is a little crooked, but that's all, I mean really ---

JOE: But he's wore a false upper plate ever since he was five years of age.

MABEL: Never known anything else.

DOROTHEA: Huh.

JOE: And then we came back and we had, we had, let's see we started out with about fifteen head of cattle. And we had sixty, sixty some head of sheep. That's all we had to start with. My dad owed four years of back taxes. He owed the mortgage of all the ranch was worth. He owed the bank two thousand dollars. He owed my brother-in-law two thousand dollars. That's what we walked into. Now you can imagine how ---

MABEL: A happy situation, wasn't it?

JOE: Those four years of back taxes, when taxes were only maybe two hundred and fifty, three hundred dollars on those ranches at that time. And here those back taxes four years, maybe thirteen, fourteen hundred dollars. Geez, you know, it was just rough for us. But we made it doing the cattle business. My dad liked sheep, had a little bunch of sheep. Of course he had sheep at one time on the ranch. And he took care of them.

And when he got old enough I felt, I sold them. I didn't tell him I was going to do it, I just up and sold them and got rid of them. And then we went straight cattle business from then on.

BARBARA: Well, during the time that your grandfather, you say, did such a really good job, what happened for your father that they got in ---

JOE: Just the kind of man, if he --- Just like his sister, she wanted to buy a home, he paid, he bought her a home in Vale, between four and five thousand dollars at that time. And my mother's cousins came back from the war, and he set them up in business, garage business in Drewsey, a car dealership. He took no notes or anything. Your word was good with him ... you shake hands. And the pay was good with him, and they just didn't make it. They didn't pay, they never paid any interest, they never paid anything.

MABEL: Just the way he was.

JOE: His sister got up and sold the home, got up and left and never even wrote to him for twelve years. Never knew where she was.

DOROTHEA: That sounds like my father. My father was the same kind of a man. He let everybody walk all over him, and never say a word.

JOE: And then my father, he wasn't a drunkard, but if you come by with a bottle of whiskey, why, and you gave him a few drinks, then you could, if you wanted a thousand dollars, he would loan it to you, you know. That's just the way he was.

BARBARA: So he wasn't a real good manager in that respect then?

JOE: But he just ---

MABEL: Neither was his mother.

JOE: He should have done real good if he just, but he just wasn't a good manager. He was just too easy going. And he was just the opposite of old Grandpa Altnow. Grandpa Altnow, in the saloon days, why even Grandpa Altnow's son went in the saloon in

Drewsey. And he --- Bill was in Montana, and Dad went someplace and the old man went into the saloon, and he walked in there and he says, "Willy is in Montana, Albert is off drunk," he says, "the damn dams gone to hell," he says, "I'll buy a drink." And he went up, and of course everybody in the saloon thought the old man was going to buy them a drink. They all got up and started to the bar. He laid his two bits down and got his drink, drank it, turned around and walked off. (Laughter) ...

Then after we got to going good, why I got to being pressured to do different things in the county. I spent, why I might as well say I spent the rest of my life ranching until we sold out to the boys.

And I was vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce. And that must have --- they put me in the Chamber, and then the first thing they did was make me vice-president. That was clear back in, probably in the early '50's. And I didn't like some of the things the Chamber was doing at that time. I was in a year or so, and I just dropped out. I just, I didn't think they were treating the small rancher fairly compared to the big rancher. So I dropped out of it.

And then --- let's see, then in 1956, Paul Patterson, Governor Paul Patterson, appointed me to the welfare board. And I served on that for four years. And then went off of it when his term ran out in the four years. So then I got a letter, nice big plaque, or whatever you want to call it from Governor Hatfield. And he put me on the welfare board then for, from 1960 to '63. Well I didn't really like the welfare board. It was all right, but gee --- the county court at that time, and we took little children, we took them away and put them someplace else. That was a lot of work we did, and I didn't like it. Because, I don't know, I just didn't. But I served out my four years on that. And then here's a letter from Newt to ... chairman, Harney County Hospital Board. This is to inform you that the county court has appointed Joe Altnow, Drewsey, Oregon, to serve as a member of the

hospital board for a term of five years. Well I served that five years, then served another five right on top of that. Well, George and the court thought I had served on that one two terms, which I wasn't supposed to, on the hospital board. So I went off of the hospital board. Then ---

DOROTHEA: You say George, you are saying George Purdy?

JOE: Yes, it was George. And I don't remember who the other, Lee Williams I think it was at that time. That took me up to those years; see from '63 took me up to '73. Then I was put on the board of trustees in 1979, and I served there until '82.

DOROTHEA: What board of trustees? The hospital board?

JOE: The hospital board of trustees. Then it changed. The new legislature, on the book, on the legislative change of all of it, and I was put on the advisory board from '82 to '89. So I spent just a little over twenty years on the hospital board.

BARBARA: You have seen a lot of changes.

JOE: Yes, I have. Then I served on the IED Board. I was life member of Masons, the Royal Arch Masons, and the Elks Lodge. I was president of the fair board. I was on the Harney County ten-year planning committee for several years. I served on the BLM county and state board. I don't like to do this, it sounds like I'm bragging. But it's the things that's happened.

BARBARA: That's right.

JOE: I was president of the Harney County Stockgrowers. I was President of the Bell-A - -- in fact ---

MABEL: You formulated the Bell-A.

JOE: Yeah.

MABEL: You formulated the Bell-A.

JOE: I helped put the Bell-A together when Cameron Cliff had it, and they put it into a

cooperative out there. I was ... I was more helped by it. We were given authority by the government. And John Campbell and I, I think bought, put the two to buying of the ranch. And we bought that; I believe it was a hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

MABEL: I don't remember, although I was secretary for many years.

JOE: And Hank Dickerson --- Mabel was secretary, Hank Dickerson was the banker, and he says, "Mabel will you please hand that check back?" He says, "I never saw a check for a hundred and fifty thousand dollars."

MABEL: I couldn't believe this.

JOE: But it was a great experience, and ... and I was there seven years. And back in Drewsey, I helped to get the Drewsey Community Hall built. We built that all by donation.

MABEL: Schoolhouse.

JOE: The church.

MABEL: We built the church.

JOE: Then I served on the --- let's see, I served on the chamber here in the '80's. I can't -- you'd have to get Marge, if you wanted the years. But I served around here for a while when I came back. And then I was grand marshal of the '77 fair court and parade, fair, rodeo.

DOROTHEA: It's a good thing you came back to Harney County.

JOE: Well I guess we liked Harney County. What we did, when we decided to retire, we looked at --- we had friends in Portland, you know, they said come back to Portland to retire. Gee we didn't want to go back there. So we looked at --- my sister lives in Ontario, and her husband. They wanted me to come down there. They even found a --- What are you showing off? Oh.

MABEL: The year he was grand marshal (shows picture). And that was his favorite horse.

JOE: I lost my train of thought, where I was.

BARBARA: Talking about coming back to Harney County to retire.

JOE: Yes, we looked at houses in Ontario. My sister even picked out a house for us. We looked at a lot of nice homes down there.

... (Unrelated conversation)

Then we knew so many more people in Harney County, and we felt this way. We made most of our money in Harney County, we liked the people in Harney County, and we'd live in Harney County.

MABEL: We were going to spend it in Harney County. And that's the way we felt.

JOE: And that's just about right. We looked at homes for three years in Burns. And every time we would come back to this house. And we got it down to two homes. The Bauer house right over across here a ways, and this home. They were similar. And I said, "Which one are we going to get, Mabel?" She said, "Well," she says, "I like the back yard at the Bauer house ..." Says, "I like the house over here better." I says, "Well where are you going to live, in the back yard, or are you going to live in the house with me?" (Laughter)

BARBARA: That settled that.

JOE: That's how we kind of settled it. So we have been here five years now, and we are very happy.

BARBARA: It's easier to re-do a backyard than a house, isn't it?

MABEL: Yeah, and we enjoy ---

JOE: We enjoy each other very much.

MABEL: We've made some changes, but not very many.

JOE: I've taken an active part for the short time we've been here in the Center down

there. I have served on the, chairman of the advisory board, and I'm chairman of the general committee down at the ---

BARBARA: So you're really not retired. You have your fingers in a lot of things to keep you busy every day.

JOE: Oh, I'll tell you I'm the chauffeur of the town. I'm just --- these people that's lost their driver's license, I --- Joe, will you come down and haul the screens. Yes, I run a taxi. And they all can ask me to do it, but they never yet have given me a gallon of gas, or bought me a meal.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

DOROTHEA: Well we have to have a little Good Samaritan in us every once in awhile.

JOE: Sure we do. Your tape is off, isn't it?

BARBARA: No.

DOROTHEA: No.

MABEL: You know though, you sure get back what you put into your life.

JOE: Can you turn it off just a minute? --- Years ago, in the '40's when the war was on, why Cyc and Nita Presley, Mabel's sister, they didn't have any place to go. He only got one day off every month, or something like that, and they'd come, head right for the ranch. And this was haying time, and we had a big lake fenced, a big yellow fence out there so the little kids could stay inside that, and not worry about that.

MABEL: Everybody swam, everybody swam.

JOE: And we had a nice big diving board. So I saw the car come up the road. I knew who it was. I was down there haying, and I thought, hell they're not going to get the best of me. They're going to be swimming pretty quick and having ice cream. And I'm going to go up there. So I went up, and I went in, what I call my bathroom, it had a shower and toilet in it and everything in the back of the house. And I went in there to put my

swimming suit on. And here hung a nice new brassier, and here hung a brand new girdle. And I thought hell; I might as well dress up. (Laughter) I put the brassier on, and I put the girdle on, and got me an old pair of boots, cowboy boots. I got my mother's big old straw hat; you know the big type made by the Mexicans.

MABEL: By the Mexicans, Mexican hat.

JOE: So I went over, and I said, "Well folks, are you having a good time, I'm going to." And I just walked out on that diving board and dove in. (Laughter)

MABEL: Hat and all.

JOE: Her sister could have about killed me, I had this girdle on. BARBARA: You know, that's great.

MABEL: You know, we had a wonderful time out there. We really did. That was more fun than anything that you could even dream or --- And it wasn't only that, we had kids work for us, and they worked their fool heads off. All Joe had to do was just tell them, do it.

JOE: Well when we first come back, why of course, when the war was on, you see we made our plans to come back before the war ever started. We didn't realize there was going to be a war at all, just like everybody else. When it started Mabel said, "What will we do?" And I said, "Go home. Let's chance it." My dad, he said, "Joe why don't you change your registration to Burns?" I said, "Nope, I'm going to leave it right in Portland. If they want me, they'll call me." And they never did call me. And so then I would come over here, and we had to hire a lot of our help down here at the railroad yards when they come. And you know what kind of help. I hired these old bums. And this old bum out there --- of course milking cows, and separate cream. He had a mustache and he would, he would break ---

MABEL: You going to get this? This is good.

JOE: Well not really, it doesn't make any difference.

BARBARA: We need to turn the tape over, and then he can finish your story.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, let's turn this over and then we can start over.

MABEL: This is good; you never saw anything like it. (Laughter)

SIDE B

JOE: ... he would eat that separated cream, you know. He just loved it; just fill it up on everything on his plate, you know. Then he would get this mustache across here, and then he would go, put his finger up, slurp, slurp, slurp, right at the table. (Laughter) Like the peas, we had our own garden, you know, and had lots of fresh peas. Someway he could run that knife right underneath those peas and just pick it up like that and put them right to his mouth and take those peas off of it.

MABEL: And never lose a pea.

BARBARA: Is that right?

JOE: Yeah, and he had another fellow with him when I paid them off. I told them I would take them back to where I picked them up, and I picked these up in Ontario. And I took them back, and this one fellow when he got out he said, "Joe," he says, "it's been fine working for you." He says, "I'm a bum, I'm a regular bum." He says, "That's how I make my living, and how I make my money." He says, "Joe," he says, "I've got four thousand dollars in the bank." He said, "I didn't have to pay for you." And you see, that's what he was. I said, "What will you do now?" He said, "I'll go right back to bumming." Sit on the street corners, a nickel here, a dime here, that's the way he made his living.

Then I had another one, old fellow there, and we got down to we just had one buck driver. And I'd gotten him out of Burns here, and we, he had, he was supposed to have a heart condition. He had a bottle in his suitcase. And ever so often in the evening he'd

have his drink. But he never did have to have one in the day. One day I saw him on the haystack, and one day he yelled at me. He said, "Joe, I've got to have a drink." And whatever his name was, I said, "You'll have to wait until quitting time." "No I won't by god, I'll just tie my lines up here and go to town." Well gee, he was the only buck driver I had, and I'd have never ... I said, "Nope, I'll go get your drinks." (Laughter) So I went and got his drink for him.

And I had another man I picked up here in Burns, and he was a timber faller, of the old style cross cut faller. And I didn't know he was drunk when I picked him up. And it took Mabel two days to get him dried out. "Boy," she said, "if you ever do that to me again, I'll kill you." But anyway, when I did, he was a fine old worker. And when I brought him back to Burns, why we got out to the "Y" and he said, "Joe, I can smell town." And he says, "You want a drink Joe?" I said, "No, I don't." He reached down in his suitcase and he had a pint. And there was probably just about that much out. He had had that all the time through haying, and hadn't touched it. He said, "If you want one, you better take it now, because you won't get another chance." And he just tipped that up and drank it. And he said, "When I was a falling in the woods, I bought pints by the case." "And when we come in from falling," he said, "I would clean up and drink a pint of whiskey, eat my supper, and go to bed. Do the same thing over the next day." Then after the war was over and we could hire other people, then I hired boys, a lot of boys out of Vale. LDS boys.

MABEL: LDS boys.

JOE: And we liked them. They didn't smoke, they didn't drink coke. They were good boys and I could do about anything with them.

MABEL: And their parents checked on them every single Sunday to be sure that they were behaving.

JOE: And we hired --- and some of it rubbed off on our boys, but not enough of it, that's for sure. But it, it did. They were nice to have. Then we had one boy that stole a car in Portland.

MABEL: Godson. Our godson.

JOE: And they, they sent him to me to see if we could straighten him out. He worked there that summer. And I talked so mean to that boy I thought he would hate my guts. I'll tell you, just time and again. And you know, when he went back to Portland, he went --- as soon as he got through school, he made a man of himself. And when he had his first child he named it Joe. I'll tell you that didn't go down very good with his grandparents though.

MABEL: Very good friends of ours.

JOE: We could go to Portland and that boy, just as soon as we hit town, he was right there to see us.

MABEL: He was there. Yeah.

JOE: Then we had another boy from Burns here that was in a lot of trouble.

MABEL: You'd know him.

JOE: Now don't you mention any names Mabel.

MABEL: I'm not going to mention them.

JOE: And that boy is doing fine. Got a fine business of his own. MABEL: In addition to that they are still all our friends.

BARBARA: Sometimes it just takes someone that really cares, and takes an interest.

MABEL: That's right.

BARBARA: See that they get going right.

JOE: The only ones that would ride in a jeep, and of course the top was off of it, just open. And they hop in that of an evening and things. And what I'd do before we started

haying, I'd take the muffler off of that jeep. And then of an evening I'd go irrigate after haying, and I'd go do irrigating and things. And I could hear that jeep. And if they got to squirling, I knew it. So they'd come in, I'd say, "Who was driving the jeep tonight?" "I was." I said, "Okay, you're grounded for a week, you were squirling." Boy, I'll tell you, they didn't squirl much, you know.

MABEL: Of course you know he'd have been an awful good counselor for some organization.

JOE: Oh, I don't know.

MABEL: Really, he would have. Yes, you would have.

JOE: Gee, like the kids, you know, it would get hot in the night, maybe in the forenoon. Or it might be in the middle of the after-noon, and we'd be working hard, and I'd say, "Boys, let's go swimming for an hour."

MABEL: We had that big lake over there, the little one ---

JOE: So we'd go and swim. I said, "Alright, now we're going to work an hour before we go in for supper. I'll tell Mabel we won't be in until seven." And we'd work another hour. And gee, and if we'd get behind I'd pay them overtime. I'd say, "Boys, I'll pay you some overtime." Why they'd go out there and work until dark. Somebody else you couldn't have gotten them to do that at all.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, right.

MABEL: This is why I say he would have been a good counselor.

JOE: And then I coached the baseball boys in Drewsey. They, my youngest son come home and he said, "Dad, we want a baseball team." And I said, "Gosh, we're haying." Well he said, "I've got all the names down, and you got a team, coach them." And I'd go hay all day, and then go in there and knock flies till dark, and teach those kids. But we sure, we had a fine team. We played lots of games here in Burns. And we beat the

champion team here, little league, one year. And out at Drewsey, we got the diamond all fixed real nice, and they came out there. And we had --- they cried, they had never been beat before. They hadn't lost a game all summer. And they cried. But we took them out to the ranch, had a big hamburger feed; all went swimming when it was over with. Yeah. And then Gary, our oldest boy, this is kind of funny. He come home and said, "Dad," he said, "I want you to take me to Crane to the track meet." I said, "What are you going to do?" He said, "I'm going to run." I said, "You can't run." He said, "The dickens I can't, I can outrun every girl in that school." (Laughter) And when he was in Crane he won the hundred-yard dash. And run right here in Burns, he won the hundred-yard dash here.

DOROTHEA: Gary is your oldest, and Albert is your youngest.

JOE: He is youngest.

DOROTHEA: Youngest.

MABEL: There is six years difference between them.

JOE: And Albert works and lives in Springfield. Works in Eugene for UPS, has for about seventeen years now.

MABEL: He's worked for UPS for years.

JOE: And they have a little boy that is twenty-one months old that they just adopted. They adopted him when he was first born. There was a little high school girl seventeen years of age, and she had a --- the father was a high school boy. And they took; let's see he was born on St. Valentine's Day. And they took him home the next day. He's just as fiery red headed as you ever saw. And big old blue eyes, we just love him just like he was our own.

DOROTHEA: And that's their only child?

JOE: Pardon.

DOROTHEA: Do they have any other children?

MABEL: No.

JOE: No.

DOROTHEA: That's the only one.

JOE: The one they have.

MABEL: He loves this house.

JOE: He likes the steps.

MABEL: He likes these steps, you know.

DOROTHEA: Oh, yeah.

MABEL: Oh, boy. He just loves that.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and Gary has two children. So you just have the

JOE: Gary has three children.

MABEL: Three children.

DOROTHEA: Gary has three.

JOE: Yes, the first one is Scott, and the next one is ---

MABEL: Scott was always our boy. He stayed with us a lot.

JOE: Oh Mabel, what's the second boys name? Gosh, Angel is the girl. Josh, Joshua, Joshua Daniel.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that's right, I'd forgotten about that.

JOE: Joshua Daniel.

MABEL: They went to school here.

JOE: I know I told Sally when she named Angel that name, I said, "Boy, you're expecting a lot of her." Well she said, "I am too, and I'm going to get it." And she is just an angel, that girl is.

MABEL: Yes, and I've never, she is out of high school. I've never heard her do a mean

thing, or seen her, or anything else. That's the truth. And that's just unbelievable.

JOE: I took her up to the hospital when she was a freshman in high school, and they thought she was some young lady applying for a job. She was --- I mean she was just that mature.

MABEL: A beautiful girl.

JOE: Beautiful girl. And Josh, they live in Seattle. Gary and Sally are divorced. And they live in Seattle. And Josh works for the same company as his mother does. He has a fine job. And Angel is going to college up there. And Scott, as soon as he got out of high school here --- we admire Scott for what he did. He worked for Safeway for about a year or so. And then he joined the air force. All by himself. Didn't have nobody go with him. He went right straight to Texas. And then when he got done with all his training in the United States, he went to England and stayed two years. And he and his buddy dated twin girls, and married the twin girls over there, and brought them to the States.

MABEL: And so we have two English gals in the U.S.

JOE: And so then when Scott came, when Scott came back --- I'm not going to tell on his mother. I don't think I should tell about ---

DOROTHEA: No, we'll leave that out. But I do want to get Sally's maiden name. Was that Green?

JOE: Westmark. Oh, her maiden name?

MABEL: Her maiden name was --- she is Dorothy Lawrence's daughter.

DOROTHEA: Lawrence, right, Sally Lawrence.

MABEL: Dorothy Lawrence.

JOE: Now it's --- I'll wait until they shut this off here. Anyway when Scott came back, he educated himself for aero, for aerospace. Everything out of space, aerospace. Well he went to work for aerospace in California, in Sacramento I guess it is. And they just bought

their home, and they went on strike. And of course those old fellows had been there for several years, they said, "Gee, we don't care, we aren't going back to work for six months or so. We're going to have a good vacation." Here he had just bought a house. Just scared the pants off of him.

BARBARA: Oh, yeah.

JOE: He was out finding jobs shoveling ditch, anything he could get. Well he got on as a guard at Wells Fargo Bank. And he kind of liked it. So he put his application in for Folsom Prison as a guard. And they said, "If you can make the examination and the physical, we might have a job for you." And of course Scott is a real; things come easy for him as far as that. So he passed with flying colors. And he got on real easy. And he's been there now for, I don't know, two and a half or three years. When he first started it was pretty rough. He was in, locked in with thirteen hundred prisoners. He was the only person in there. But he was to oversee the kitchen and the dining room tables. Because there is gunners above him. And the first two weeks, or three weeks he was in there why they shot two men right close to him. They don't fool with them. See they are lifers, and if they don't straighten up ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

JOE: Scott said, "How do you think I felt? Here I weigh a hundred and fifty pounds, walk up to one of those guys that weighs about two forty, and his arms are bigger than my legs. And tap him on the shoulder and say now listen, I'm Mr. Altnow, and you're going to call me Mr. Altnow or you're in trouble." Well he said, "I would just shake there and tremble." And Tracy said that he'd just wake up screaming, you know, for a while after seeing those two men shot. They shot one right between the eyes, and they shot the other two in the heart. But he's got over that, and he's got three or four promotions. But now he's in a bad place, he's a gunner himself now. Been promoted to a gunner himself. And I don't know

how he is going to feel the first time he has to kill somebody. Because gee, you ought to hear the stories he tells. My gosh ---

MABEL: Well they haven't a thing to lose.

DOROTHEA: Well, right. It's kind of like ---

MABEL: They are in for life, and they haven't a thing to lose.

DOROTHEA: It's kind of like being a policeman. It's about the same way.

JOE: The stories he can tell you about how they bring dope in there. How they have to examine people and things. And what they do. He says a lot --- there is a big turnover in help, because the help gets to taking it in there too.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JOE: He says, boy it's a good education for him. He said, "You couldn't get me to touch dope for anything on earth." He said ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah, that's ---

BARBARA: Does he think he would like to get back into the aerospace work if he had a chance?

JOE: Yes, he probably would. But see, he's looking forward, see here he is, twenty-six years of age making forty, forty-one thousand a year. Retire in twenty years, practically at full pay. And of course at Folsom, they are all killers there. They are lifers. But they are going to start this new, build a new prison up at, just across the border, Oregon border. Susanville, going to build a new prison there. And he may transfer up there. He's bought him a piece of ground up there on some lake. And he's going to build him a home up there. And he's, he has a nice boat and everything. Gee, you just, you know you take a kid at his age, that's awful good money.

BARBARA: Oh, you bet.

JOE: Of course Josh is making good money too, but he's --- But California is where the

money is. Of course it takes more to live there.

BARBARA: Oh, you bet.

DOROTHEA: That is what I was going to say, houses cost terribly much down there.

JOE: He said the house like this one here would cost three times, or four times what we paid for it.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you bet. I never did get Mabel's maiden name.

MABEL: Cockrell.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

MABEL: C O C K R E L L.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

BARBARA: And what were your parent's names?

MABEL: Cockrell.

JOE: No.

BARBARA: First names.

MABEL: Oh, May Cockrell, and Andrew Cockrell.

BARBARA: Okay. And you have how many brothers and sisters?

MABEL: Well I have four brothers, one dead.

JOE: One sister.

MABEL: And one sister. There was six of us.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JOE: And your mother raised practically three families.

MABEL: Yeah, I'm the oldest.

BARBARA: I see.

MABEL: And I don't know if you ever knew Jerry Cockrell.

BARBARA: No.

MABEL: He's the youngest.

JOE: Duke, they called him.

MABEL: He's just been here --- he is the ... lives in California.

JOE: Bob is the youngest.

MABEL: Pardon?

JOE: Bob is the youngest.

MABEL: No, he isn't. Jerry is. Jerry is the baby.

JOE: Oh yeah, that's right.

MABEL: Jerry is the baby. Bob is third up.

JOE: Of course you probably know Nita.

BARBARA: Yes, uh huh. I've played bridge with her before.

MABEL: Yeah.

JOE: Nita looked pretty bad for a while, but she looked a little better lately. I wish --- is that tape ---

BARBARA: It's on.

JOE: I wish she'd get rid of that black hair. I'd like to see her about the color of Dorothy's hair.

MABEL: Well then it would be natural. That is the truth.

JOE: No --- it would be just the color of your natural, just as white as it could be.

MABEL: Yeah, I think it is.

JOE: She wants to ask some questions.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and Sally's married name now is ---

JOE: Westmark.

DOROTHEA: Westmar?

JOE: W E S T M A R K.

MABEL: She's divorced again.

DOROTHEA: Again.

JOE: And the two children have taken the name of Westmark. But Scott hasn't.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

JOE: We got a kick out of ---

MABEL: Scott is still the Altnow.

JOE: Before Scott, before he got married, he said, "I'll tell you, we're going to keep that Altnow name a going." See we're the last of the Altnow's. Said, "I'm going to keep the Altnow game a going." He said, "We're going to have six boys." (Laughter) So when he was up I said, "Well Scott, how's the six boys?" He said, "It's down to one." Tracy was standing behind him and she just held her fingers up. Why don't you get a drink of water or something?

MABEL: (Cough) Yeah, I need to do something, it itches.

JOE: Gee, we had a nice lunch at the Center today.

DOROTHEA: Was it?

JOE: Uh huh. Safeway had sent down there --- they had a lot of that orange juice, you know in those jugs.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JOE: And they sent quite a lot of that down. And another store that does just wonders is Sentry. Sentry doesn't throw their milk away; they send it down there before it starts to get bad or any-thing.

BARBARA: That's great.

JOE: Sometimes they'll send, oh maybe two, three --- couple hundred quarts down there, things like that, for people to pick up. Sentry is awful good. And then the bakery out there, if they have some stales coming on, they'll want to make fresh, they'll send them

down to the Center.

DOROTHEA: We had one thing, going back, we were looking up when Pauline and --- was it Marcus visited with you that time. You talked about your old barn out there. And we'd like to know some more about the barn.

MABEL: It's still there.

JOE: Part of it, just half of it.

MABEL: Yeah.

JOE: The old barn was built --- I don't know what year it was built in, but it would have been real early. And it was built by John Ott. And he had a little old mill up above, up above the ranch there that they hauled it from. And it was all pinned together without nails, practically all of it. And it was a hundred feet long, and fifty feet wide, and it had a hay mow the full length of it.

DOROTHEA: And what was it used in, with the stages and ---

JOE: No, the stage didn't stop there. The stage run right by there, but it --- The old Stallard ranch down below there was the stage stop. But I don't know whether, I think they must have stayed all night at Drewsey. I don't think there was any place big enough to --- Stallards might have had enough to stay. That was just two miles below. They could have stayed at the ranch some, I don't know. But it wasn't known as a stage stop.

When --- another thing that I didn't mention that you might be interested in --- that Grandpa happened to him. He had a, he called him a green Dutchman. He had a, his brother came out from Germany and came west. He met him at Winnemucca. See Winnemucca was the closest outlet at that time. And he went down and picked him up in the buggy. And they got probably where, about where the Riverside Dam is. Somewhere around through there, and they stopped for the night. And when Grandpa Altnow picked up the kindling to start the fire with that night, why a rattlesnake was in there and it bit him

on the finger. I don't know which one, one or the other. And this is kind of odd, but he got the fire going and he laid down --- he wanted his brother to cut it off. And he wouldn't do it. And he wanted my dad to cut it off, and my dad was only nine years of age when this happened, and he wouldn't do it. So the old fellow laid down and burned it off. And burnt the whole end of it off in the fire, which was one of the worst things he could have done. So then they could drive one of these horses, and they unhooked the team and my dad and the brother headed for the ranch. Gee whiz here, a nine-year-old kid, he wasn't sure where he was, and the brother had never been there. But he, they had those chalk, white chalk hills, and finally he saw those chalk hills, and he knew he was headed in the right direction.

Of course then they got there, and they had to get a hack and go back and get Grandpa. And then they had to take him clear to Canyon City. And he just all but died. My dad said he turned spotted, just like a rattlesnake. But he did live. But it was quite an experience.

DOROTHEA: Boy.

MABEL: I don't expect many of us would have liked him, if we'd have lived to see him. It would have been kind of interesting to see him, wouldn't it?

JOE: I don't know, Mabel. Mabel, he was pretty witty I think.

MABEL: Was he?

JOE: That's what mother said.

MABEL: Well see everything that I've ever heard about him was things that he was doing that someday, somehow always seemed kind of ---

JOE: It's just --- they had a parlor on the ranch, they had the living room and the parlor. If you came there, and you were German, why you went to the parlor, and you would go in there and talk in German. And ---

MABEL: There is a picture of the old house in here.

JOE: I've got a good one in there. Okay. And they would visit; read the Bible in the parlor all the time. And this --- let's see, Bill the youngest boy was riding a bucking horse and he was right up in front of the house and Grandma was standing out there yelling, "Jump off Willy, jump off Willy." And Grandpa was hollering, "Down mit the logger," hang on the horns.

MABEL: I'll take you in to see the old house before you go.

JOE: And one time they hired a new man, and they were discussing about a month, something happened to him. And they --- let's see, Grandma said "Yune, William, yune." Willy would say, "You lie, you lie." Well see he said, "July," She said, "June." Before he got up and left, he said he wasn't going to work any place that they talked like that at the breakfast table. (Phone rings)

DOROTHEA: I think you're wanted on the telephone.

JOE: And this last time her eyesight hadn't improved like it should, and so she goes back to Thompson to see just what he says. You got that, and then your hair appointments on Friday.

MABEL: Ten o'clock, ten o'clock tomorrow.

JOE: Yeah, that's right. Gee, I've told you some awful stories.

DOROTHEA: Well it sounds good and interesting to me.

BARBARA: I was going to ask you what did you do --- you went to school in Portland, and then what did you do?

MABEL: Well I worked for Mason Ehrman Company.

JOE: Now you went to Hillsboro first, started out in ---

MABEL: Pardon?

JOE: You went to Hillsboro first.

MABEL: I went to Hillsboro first for the district attorney.

BARBARA: I see. You were secretary then?

MABEL: Secretary for the district attorney.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MABEL: And I --- this is terrible. I took all of these, all of --- everybody that they brought in I took all of the notes on them in shorthand, transcribed them all. This was before you had all of these cylinders and things, you know. And then, see ---

JOE: Well you didn't like it, there was too much in Hillsboro.

MABEL: Oh, I didn't like it at all. You just ---

JOE: I wonder why you didn't like Hillsboro?

MABEL: Well I didn't like it because it was just the seamy side of life. Now that was it.

JOE: Well there was too many pregnancies, and ---

MABEL: Too many pregnancies, and too much children involved that were caught doing things they shouldn't be doing. And being put in jail. And then I'd have to take all these things that they gave you on shorthand, and I had to transcribe them all. And when they brought them into court, I had to sit there and read all this stuff again, and I hated it. So I got out of it as quick as ---

JOE: And you went to Oregon City next.

MABEL: And then I went to Oregon City. I was the private secretary to the top man who had about three or four other jobs besides that. And spent his time between us all. And then when he was gone, I had to do all of the office work for him. Besides the fact that I did the sales managers, the produce, the main office, and what have you. I took everything in shorthand, and transcribed. So ---

JOE: And then from there you went back to Portland.

MABEL: And then from there I went back to Portland to --- where did I go next?

JOE: Mason Ehrman Company.

MABEL: Mason Ehrman Company. I worked there for two and a half, two and a half years.

BARBARA: Worked in the office there too then?

MABEL: Yeah.

JOE: She was his private secretary, Mason's. He was ---

MABEL: Well I was private secretary ---

JOE: To all of them.

MABEL: All three. All three top men.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JOE: Mabel, Mabel, I'll brag on her, but she was pretty good on the old style typewriter. She typed a hundred and twenty words, perfect ---

BARBARA: Oh, good, yeah.

JOE: --- a minute, so she --- And I'll tell you, she was my secretary, she could take shorthand just about as fast as you wanted to talk. And when I was on the Bell-A, there was about forty of us in the Bell-A, at the meetings. There would be between forty and fifty people. I'd always introduce Mabel, and I said, "Well this is my secretary. It's the only secretary that I ever had that would let me sleep with her." (Laughter)

MABEL: Quite a reputation.

BARBARA: I should say.

JOE: I'll say this for Mabel; she stood by me, side by side. Every dollar we have, she helped me make it.

BARBARA: And when Joe said it was time to go back to Harney County, what ---

MABEL: I didn't like it very well.

BARBARA: You weren't too enthused about coming back again.

MABEL: No, I wasn't. Because we had a brand new house, and it was ---

JOE: Brand new car.

MABEL: Brand new car, and darn good job, and it was pretty darn nice house in a good neighborhood.

BARBARA: Uh huh. Did you grow up in Drewsey too?

MABEL: No, no.

BARBARA: Or Crane?

MABEL: No, in Crane.

BARBARA: In Crane.

JOE: Tell them where you were born, Mabel.

MABEL: No, I was ---

JOE: I say, tell her where you were born.

MABEL: I was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

BARBARA: Oh. And then you family moved to Crane.

MABEL: Family moved here. Let's see, how old was I.

JOE: Five.

MABEL: Five years of age. Rusty was three years of age, and Sonk was one year of age. That's my brother --- two brothers.

BARBARA: And so you then moved to Crane. You went to school there. Then you thought, well I'm going to get out of the country and go to the city.

MABEL: I couldn't get out of high school fast enough.

BARBARA: Fast enough. And you got to Portland, and then Joe ---

MABEL: I just stayed.

BARBARA: You got acquainted with Joe again, and got married, and

MABEL: That's right. Well he followed me. (Laughter)

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JOE: She always said she had to marry me to get --- she couldn't get rid of me so she just married me.

BARBARA: Did you have some other beaus while you were in Portland?

MABEL: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. He used to come clear down to see me, and maybe I would be out with somebody else.

BARBARA: Oh dear. So you kind of liked the city life, and then the idea of coming back to ranching was not real ---

MABEL: No, I didn't really like it. I was real unhappy when we first came back.

BARBARA: And of course living with other family in the same house, it didn't help matters either.

MABEL: That's right. They didn't like it, and we didn't like it.

JOE: And Mabel never did buckaroo. I told her, I said, "I don't want you, I'm not marrying you for ---" When we came back I said, "You're not my buckaroo, and you're not my ranch hand." I said, "I want you in that house, if I have children, to take care of those children, to do my cooking, and be my good bed partner." BARBARA: So what did you do with your time then after you came back to the ranch?

MABEL: Oh, my heavens. That ranch was run down.

JOE: Well Mabel, she means like your social things I think.

MABEL: Huh? Oh, I got involved in everything.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

MABEL: Our next-door neighbor was Anna Grace Edmondson. And then she and I, we built a new schoolhouse at Drewsey. That was ---

JOE: Well we built it, but you did the, you gals did the ---

MABEL: Yeah. And ---

JOE: And the church. We started the church.

MABEL: And the church. We started the first going church that they'd ever had in Drewsey.

JOE: The ... church.

MABEL: That's right. Anna Grace and I did. We started a square dance club. That turned out very successfully. We started regular Sunday school for the little kids. We taught it ourselves. We did a little studying.

JOE: ... Mabel. You gals put up all kinds of things. Cake sales and everything and got all the cooking stuff for the ---

MABEL: Yeah, we used to have just a kitchen, we had a modern ---

JOE: Had one of the first hot lunches in Harney County in the school.

MABEL: Well you and Everett built the schoolhouse, new schoolhouse. And then we started the hot lunch program there too. So ---

BARBARA: That's great.

MABEL: See our children?

BARBARA: Oh, your quail.

MABEL: I don't know what else we did.

JOE: Well, we were busy all the time.

MABEL: I know it.

BARBARA: Did you have people come in to help cook for haying and that sort of thing then?

JOE: No.

MABEL: No.

JOE: My mother and Mabel had a very good relationship after we got our house. We had a big garden. My mother picked raspberries one day; Mabel would can them the next day. And then this is just the way they worked. And ---

MABEL: The one that did the outdoor work, the other one cooked, see, or visa versa. So

BARBARA: So you didn't have to do both.

MABEL: So we didn't have to do both.

JOE: And when Mabel was just as pregnant as she could be with Gary --- in fact it was --- he was born the last of August, and this was the first of August, still haying. We had an old fellow that worked for us, Clarence Hunter, and he'd leave his shoes ---

MABEL: You might have known Clarence.

JOE: He'd leave his shoes untied all the time. And he'd have his shirt kind of like Harold Gibson, unbuttoned down to here, even if it was twenty below zero, it didn't bother him. His coat, he'd have a big wool coat on, but everything would be open right down to --- And Saturday night Mabel would say, "Clarence, you better take your bath tonight and get cleaned up, because I need help tomorrow." So he'd get all cleaned up, and he'd be right in that kitchen the next morning to help her peel peaches, apricots, or anything she had to do.

MABEL: Whenever I was canning, he was canning too.

JOE: Help her all day on Sunday.

BARBARA: Isn't that nice.

JOE: We put up probably five, six hundred quarts of fruit. And maybe ---

BARBARA: Well it would take that to get through the year, wouldn't it?

MABEL: And it takes jars, too.

BARBARA: Oh, yes. To wash and sterilize.

MABEL: That's right.

JOE: We had a ... earth, chalk, or whatever you want to call it, cellar. And it stayed just about sixty degrees the year 'round.

MABEL: We could keep anything in there the year 'round.

JOE: We could keep apples from one year to the next.

BARBARA: Oh, great.

MABEL: And never lose it.

BARBARA: Great.

MABEL: It really was.

DOROTHEA: That would be neat.

JOE: Because we put up ice. We had a icehouse.

MABEL: Yeah.

BARBARA: How far was your home from Drewsey?

JOE: Seven miles.

BARBARA: Seven. So that really wasn't too bad to have to go into town, or activities.

JOE: No, oh no. No, we just didn't get to Burns as often.

BARBARA: Uh huh. So when did you decide that living on the ranch wasn't so bad? When did you make up your mind that this is where I'm going to be after you left Portland?

MABEL: Well I ---

JOE: When you got that house and Gary was born.

MABEL: Yeah. That was the end of it. They knew they had lost me down there then. You know they kept hoping --- actually, this is the truth. I worked for a big firm, and they kept hoping that I was going to come back. Because I worked with the big boy. All three of them. And they knew then when the youngster came, they knew it was gone. I wouldn't be back.

BARBARA: Uh huh.

JOE: They'd have split us up if they could have. (Laughter) I had to take her to Portland about ever so often.

BARBARA: Got to get her off of the ranch and into town to keep her happy.

MABEL: No, they always had jobs for me.

BARBARA: Oh, I see.

MABEL: They always had a job for me.

JOE: I bought the first car that Ray Weeks got in after the war. And I bought the first Ford tractor that he got in after the war.

MABEL: Well, we've made a little history ourselves, I guess, maybe.

DOROTHEA: Sounds like quite a little.

MABEL: We saved the ranch.

BARBARA: Well, that's something.

MABEL: That was the first big step.

JOE: We saved it, and we really improved it. Made it into a ---

MABEL: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Who bought that ranch?

JOE: Well, we sold it to the boys first. And there was --- there was just too many of us taking out of it. And things weren't good. Albert had his --- well things weren't good. Albert could see things weren't going to go on just right. So he got this job with UPS unbeknown to all of us. He just walked in and said, "This is my last day on the Altnow Ranch folks."

MABEL: He'd done it all see before.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

JOE: And so then Gary and Sally they ran it. And of course Gary was, he was just like

my dad. He wasn't a good operator. We could see things were going the wrong way, but we didn't have the finances to buy it back. Because we had sold the ranch to them cheap. We give each boy a seventy-five thousand dollar interest in the ranch clear, besides. And we saw what was happening, and so they just got to the point where Gary had to do something, or sell. He, well in fact Sally told him, said, "If you'll sell the ranch and move to Burns, I'll never leave you." Well she just had other things on her mind. And Gary sold the ranch to Arnett first.

DOROTHEA: Barnett?

JOE: Arnett.

DOROTHEA: Arnett.

JOE: Used to own the nursing home.

MABEL: He's the ---

DOROTHEA: Oh.

JOE: Sheldon Arnett.

MABEL: Sheldon Arnett.

JOE: And ---

MABEL: Arnett brothers.

JOE: And then we stayed there, Gary left us a life estate. We still have a life estate in the house.

MABEL: We have a life estate in that house yet.

JOE: We could go back if we wanted to. And then Arnett kept, I irrigated, did a lot of things for Arnett. And then Arnett sold it to Tom Turner. Sold it for 1.3 million.

DOROTHEA: And that's who has it now then?

JOE: If we had just --- if we'd have just hung onto that ranch for a few years ---

DOROTHEA: Tom Turner has it now?

JOE: Pardon.

DOROTHEA: Tom Turner has it now?

JOE: Yes. And he's --- it's a beautiful ranch too, Tom's done a lot of building out there. This is really --- Gary, I imagine Gary's home was worth a hundred and thirty-five thousand. Gee, we'd had, he'd added on to it, had a four-bedroom home, and had one room just for a pool table. He had a dance room where they had the orchestra and danced in it. He had his gun and reloading room. Tom walked in there and --- let's see, just before that, the house was fourteen years old, and just before he bought it they put new shakes on it. They put new rugs throughout, and painted that whole house complete. Tom walked in there and he said, looked around and said, "Joe, I don't like this house. I think I'll tear it down." And I said, "Tom," I said, "if you want another home," I said, "move the mobile home up there." I said, "You have just as good a view." "Nope, I'm going to --- right here." And he tore every bit of that house down, but one bedroom and one small bathroom and ---

MABEL: And a kitchen.

JOE: Huh?

MABEL: And a kitchen.

JOE: Oh no, uh huh, built on a kitchen.

MABEL: Oh, the kitchen wasn't ---

JOE: That's all there was left. And he --- all that good lumber, there is people that would love to have it, he never give anybody a stick. They took all those good rugs out there, took them right down to the Harney County dump at Drewsey and put them in there and burned them up as he took them.

MABEL: Set fire to them so nobody could get them.

JOE: And I imagine the house he built, he turned down a four-bedroom house, and he

put up a three-bedroom house. But the living room is shaped like an egg.

MABEL: All the way around.

JOE: All the way around. Like if you cut an egg in two.

MABEL: I don't think you'd have liked it. I didn't like it at all.

JOE: And then it has a step clear around it, and it's all carpeted. If you want to have thirty people, they could all sit clear around this big living room. Then they had, they put on a --- they only got three bedrooms, same amount of bathrooms, two.

MABEL: And they never entertain.

JOE: They never entertain.

MABEL: They never sit in the living room. Tom goes in and stands around once in awhile and admires it.

JOE: It's a beautiful home, but ---

MABEL: And maybe drinks a drink while he's looking at it, and that's it. And that's the truth.

JOE: He tore a hundred and thirty thousand --- and the one he ... about a hundred and thirty thousand. Well then Jerry Sitz was a carpenter, and Jerry was doing all the work and buying for him. Well Jerry was building the home up here. We've known Jerry ever since he was born. And Mabel says to him, says there is something bothering Jerry awful. Well ---

MABEL: Very unstable.

JOE: And Jerry had, he hadn't purchased all these things, he purchased them, but he didn't pay cash, he didn't pay for them with Tom's money until he accumulated about sixty-five thousand dollars, and then he left. Just got up and left.

And then I told Tom, I said, "Tom you're going to wash that dam out if you keep doing what you're doing." I said, "You got a fine big truck there, and there hasn't been

any work done on it for several years." And I said, "You keep backing the water up, it's going to go." Well I guess he thought he knew more than I did in the two months he was there than all the years I was there, because it sure went out. And that cost him sixty-five thousand dollars.

MABEL: And we were gone, and you know we could hear that when we came home that evening. That water had all been loose, you know, at once. It was just ---

JOE: Are you ladies warm enough?

DOROTHEA: Yes, fine.

JOE: I let that fire go down I think.

DOROTHEA: Do you want to catch it; we're just about out of tape here, I think. So why don't we just close off with that. We can kind of listen to some more stories here in a little bit. But we'll sign this tape off now.

JOE: I think you've got a pretty good --- I think you've done a pretty good job.

DOROTHEA: Do a little bit of videoing.

JOE: I think you've done a pretty good job.

DOROTHEA: Well, thank you.

(END OF TAPE)

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ALTNOW HISTORY

First I will begin with the surname ALTNOW. It is a variation of the very old German name ALTENAU which means a "cleared open space" or is "the old pasture". In migrating to America the spelling was changed to Altnow and Altenow by others.

Heinrich Wilhelm Altenau was born September 21, 1812, at Wriezen, Province of Brandenburg, Germany. He was the eldest son of Johann Friedrich David Altnow. On April 26, 1835, he married Wilhelmina Rettig whose ancestry was of the Royal Rettig family whose family crest was unique. It shows the head of a deer and a radish. The head of the deer indicates the vocation of forester, and the radish meaning and origin of the family name.

Heinrich and Wilhelmina were the parents of six sons, five born in Germany, and the sixth born in Minnesota. The eldest of these, William Altnow, was the father of Albert Altnow and grandfather of Joe Altnow and Mildred Jones.

William was born June 15, 1835, at Woxfelde, Province of Brandenburg, Germany. He attended school for eight years without a vacation and graduated from high school. He did not like the military rule going on and could see it would worsen, so in 1855, he "stole out" on a freighter with sails for power for the United States. After five weeks he

arrived in New York. He only had the clothes he was wearing and a small bag of possessions and twenty-five cents in his pocket. He worked his way to Watertown, Wisconsin, and from there to Wibly County Minnesota. He changed the spelling of the name to Altnow, earned enough money to send for his parents and brothers to come to America. They arrived the latter part of 1855, and settled in Minnesota.

William left Germany due to the military rule, but he enlisted (or was drafted) into the Civil War, Co. H. Second Minnesota Volunteers, in 1864. He fought on the North side and served in Tennessee, and then was with General Sherman in the battles of Jonesborough and Bentonville, and was on the famous march to the sea. He gained the rank of Second Lieutenant.

William returned to his home in Minnesota, and on October 28, 1865, he married Mathilda Matthia, a native of Germany. Their first child, Emma, was born September 12, 1866. And in October 1868, he started with wife and baby for Oregon. They went by barge down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, by freighter from there to the Isthmus of Panama. There they went by pack mules across to the Pacific. They took another freighter to San Francisco, another freighter on to Portland. They settled in Salem for a year and then moved to Antelope, Wasco County (now Wheeler County). They lived there until 1881, when he moved to the Otis Valley ranch. They had established a home in Canyon City for school.

He was a hard workingman and expected the same of others. He developed a good ranch from greasewood and alkali soil. He built an eleven-room house in 1884-86. He was so proud of his American citizenship he painted the house white with red and blue trim. He and Mathilda would never speak German in front of the children. They would go into the "parlor", close the door and read the German Bible.

When Mr. and Mrs. August Mueller (Emma Clark's parents) came to Drewsey they

stayed with the Altnow's. Neither of them could speak English and they were most happy to make friends in a strange country. They had a long warm friendship throughout the years.

William was a kind hearted man but very firm and strict. During the Indian (Bannock) uprising and their trying to get out of Harney Valley, they passed by Antelope and Altnow's. They wanted a pinto horse that William had. The Indians had a little boy and William said he would trade horse for boy. They knew they were facing trouble ahead and may all be killed so they traded. Soon after they left, William got to feeling sorry for them in giving up their little boy so asked Mathilda to get all the food she could spare, and he had \$10.00 and overtook them several miles down the road and gave them the money and food. He named the boy Joe. He died at the age of twenty-one, and William wanted to bury him by Emma in the Canyon City Cemetery. The people there were against it. They finally let him be buried in one corner of the cemetery. When Mathilda died and was buried at Drewsey, he had Emma's body moved to be put by her mother's, but never did have "Indian Joe's" (as the family knew him) moved. The family kept the home in Canyon City for years for school, which was held three months in the fall and then another three months in the spring.

After moving to Drewsey, William went to Portland and brought back a little boy and girl he had adopted. The boy never used the Altnow name --- he was known as George Warren. The girl, Edna, took the Altnow name and married Lawrence Lamberson of Westfall.

William's brother John, and family were coming to Oregon from Minnesota. Winnemucca was the closest railroad and William and Albert, who was about nine years old, went to meet them. Albert was riding a horse and his dad had a buggy and team with a camp outfit, as they had to camp out at night. Coming back, and south of Riverside,

William was cutting sagebrush for a fire and it was dusk. A rattlesnake was in the sagebrush and bit him on the first finger of his left hand. He wanted his brother to cut his finger off, but John wouldn't. He had never heard of rattlesnakes and did not speak English. William finally put his finger in the fire and burned it. Nobody ever knew why he didn't cut it off if that was what he wanted. They got ready and left for home, Albert riding ahead and having the ranchers have a fresh team of horses ready for them so they could change and keep going. The nearest doctor was in Canyon City. They had to go across to Blue Mountain Springs and to Prairie City on to Canyon City. When they got there he was so full of poison, swollen with green spots all over his body and delirious. The doctor amputated the finger and with care he recovered.

He built the "Big Lake" in the 1890's-1900's by damming up the warm springs. It had been the site of an Indian Agency. The little lake below the house was made earlier. He planted an orchard, which had pears, prunes, apples and pie cherry trees.

In 1890, the people called upon him to be the first commissioner of Harney County after it was made a separate county. Mathilda died April 29, 1906, at home. William died in Drewsey June 25, 1911. They were the parents of two sons and three daughters. Emma the oldest died when eighteen years old from tuberculosis. The parents and Albert were taking her to Canyon City and she died on the way. William John, Albert Henry, Lillian, and Ina were all born at Antelope.

Albert Altnow was born October 13, 1873, and married Loretta Belle Claypool at Westfall, Oregon, December 14, 1910. He was 37 years old and she was 19. Their marriage was the sixth time they had seen each other --- so it was a love at sight courtship. She came to Drewsey a complete stranger, and to a father-in-law who spoke very broken English. The first women she met were Mrs. W. D. Baker and Castolia Drinkwater, and Mary Robertson.

The Altnow's were known for their hospitality. There was always room and food for extras. Many "down and outers" found a home there. In 1916, Albert bought a player piano --- it was the attraction of the community. Many porch dances and potluck suppers were had during the summer time. And everyone came to swim in the lakes. Albert had always had cattle, and had been successful. His brother ran sheep and finally talked Albert into selling the cattle and going into sheep. It was a mistake. He was a self-educated man, having quit school when in the third grade to work on the ranch. He was a great reader and good with figures. Many cattle were weighed on the Altnow scales. One of his teachers was "Grandma Howard", Ed Howard's mother, and Tom's grandmother.

Albert died December 18, 1952, and Belle June 21, 1971. They had two children, Mildred and Joe.

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