

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #262 - Sides A & B & C

Subject: Bob Raleigh

Place: Raleigh Home, Burns, Oregon

Date: January 23, 1990

Interviewers: Barbara Lofgren & Dorothea Purdy

DOROTHEA PURDY: This is Dorothea Purdy and Barbara Lofgren and we're at the home of Dr. Robert Raleigh and his wife Beverly in Burns, Oregon. The date is January 23rd, 1990.

We're visiting with Bob Raleigh, and Bob would you like to tell us your full name, when you were born, and what year?

BOB RALEIGH: Robert J. Raleigh. I was born in Stratford, Wisconsin, on a farm actually with that address, and in May 12th, 1922.

DOROTHEA: What were your parent's names?

BOB: My parents, my father's name was Arthur Patrick Raleigh, and my mother's maiden name was Frances Schoenfuss.

BARBARA LOFGREN: Can you spell that?

BOB: Yeah. S-C-H-O-E-N-F-U-S-S. Neither my mother or father were immigrants to this country, but both of their parents were. My father's people came from mostly Ireland, a little bit of Welch. And my mother's people came from Austria.

DOROTHEA: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

BOB: I was, there was a family of eight boys and one girl. So I have seven brothers and one sister.

DOROTHEA: Are they all still living?

BOB: No, one brother died a number of years ago.

DOROTHEA: Of a family this large, can you name all their names?

BOB: Yes, I'm the second. My oldest brother is Ronald, then there is me, then there is Richard or Dick, and Pat, and then Jimmy, James, Dan. Dan is the one that died after he got out of the army. And then my sister Mary Ann, and then my brother Arthur, and David.

DOROTHEA: That's a nice family.

BARBARA: You say that this was a farm that you grew up on? Your father was a ---

BOB: My father farmed and worked in the woods, and carpentered. Believe it or not the woods, the company he worked for when he worked in the woods was Edward Hines.

BARBARA: Is that right? Small world.

BOB: That's where they started, you know ---

BARBARA: Uh huh, uh huh.

BOB: --- was in that Chicago area.

BARBARA: But to end up in a place where, that far away that Hines would be located.

BOB: Yeah.

BARBARA: That's interesting. And where did you go to school then?

BOB: I went to a one-room schoolhouse through eight grades. And then I went to a, I went one year at Brantwood, the town of Brantwood which was our address where we lived then which --- maybe I should tell you that I, my family moved from Stratford, Wisconsin to Brantwood, Wisconsin. From Marathon County to Price County when I was about twelve years old. And so I went to a small school in both places, a small country school.

And then high school was in Brantwood, and it was a small school, like we had the eighth and ninth, or the ninth and tenth grade were both taught and offered in that school.

Well one year you took the ninth grade, and the next year you took the tenth grade. And if you went there and it happened to be the tenth grade they were teaching, which it was in my case, I took the tenth grade before I did the ninth grade, with my older brother who had taken the ninth grade and then was in the tenth grade.

And then we went from there, we went about seven miles further to what they called the Tri-County, or Tripli High School which was in a three county, represented a three county area. And it was small enough that there were twenty kids in my graduating class. So you can see this ---

DOROTHEA: Can you tell me something about your grade school years? How many teachers did you have?

BOB: Well I started out in the first and second grade with my aunt. My father's youngest sister was the schoolteacher. And that wasn't easy because ---

BARBARA: Did she have mostly Raleigh students in school?

BOB: We had --- well I was the second, only the second one.

BARBARA: Oh, I see.

BOB: You see Ron was a first grader, me the second. And when --- and Dick went to school, to grade school there, Dick and Pat. The four of us boys went to school there before we moved. And then when I went to, when we moved to Brantwood we had a, again a one room school. And had a, one teacher in the school, and probably, well it was small enough that I was the only fifth grader, and there were no sixth graders. So I never took, I never was a sixth grader. I, they taught me the fifth and sixth grades the same year, and then I was in the seventh grade.

BARBARA: Oh, I see.

BOB: And there was about, oh roughly somewhere between ten and fifteen kids in the

school. And the year I was an eighth grader in the high school, or the grade school, my mother was kind of the janitor. When you hired a teacher in those days they paid them a full sum of sixty-five, sixty-five dollars a month. And out of that they had to do the janitorial services. And this young teacher didn't want to do this, and probably couldn't because they had an old wood stove, and stuff like that. So my mother took the job of being the janitor of the school, providing I could do all but the cleaning work, when --- for ten dollars a month. And so I went every morning, I went off to school and got the fire started. Got things going, and cleaned the blackboards, and brought in the fresh fountain full of water. And then every evening I had to dump that fountain so it didn't freeze, and do those, that was my job. And then my mother come up on Saturday and she'd, we'd give it a good sweeping and maybe once a month a scrubbing. And that

DOROTHEA: Clean the blackboards; was that part of your work too?

BOB: Yeah. And that was the way it went. But ---

DOROTHEA: That was a pretty good wage though for a boy in that day.

BOB: Oh, making a dollar was good.

DOROTHEA: I'm not saying that you're, you know, but I can remember when a dollar was a dollar. So ---

BOB: Oh, yes. When I was in high school, that was during the depression, and there was no work to speak of then. If my brother and I could get a job --- lots of times we'd start to school and we'd run into somebody, that it was potato digging time or some-thing, and he knew us kids and knew we were good workers, and he'd ask us if we wanted to come and help them dig potatoes that day. Well we never went to school then, we just quit, stay home, or not stay home, instead of going to school we'd go out to the farm and

dig potatoes and come home that --- One time this guy worked our butt off and we came home and gave my dad --- which was another thing, anytime you got money you brought it home and gave it to your mother or dad. And so this guy gave us five dollars, which was unheard of.

But I'd worked lots of days for a dollar a day, you know. And so anyhow, he gave us five dollars between us. And we told the folks we didn't go to school today, we went to work see. And that was common, really.

BARBARA: They weren't concerned that you had stayed out of school then that day. Or the teachers ---

BOB: I stayed out of school one time so long that the teacher thought I had quit.

BARBARA: Oh, is that right?

BOB: Yeah, I got a job working in the woods.

DOROTHEA: Well how do you make up your schooling when you don't go to school every day? Or do you make it up?

BOB: I won't say you're smart, but if --- When I decided to go to college, if I'm sure, you know you have to turn in your high school, and the name and so on. And where you were graduated, and then theoretically the registrar, registrar of the school, the college, gets the information from you. At least, and we still had, the school principal that I had was still in Tripli when I decided to go to college. And I know that he did about a triple flip when he found out that I was going to college, see.

I know I didn't do well. I graduated from school, I never had any problem with school, but I didn't go that often. And one of our goals from my father was he wanted us to go to high school. He wanted us to graduate just in case something come along. But at that time we didn't dream that we'd ever have a chance to do anything better. I mean it's -

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BARBARA: You pretty much thought you were going to ---

BOB: --- we were going to be farm kids or working in the woods. That's what everybody else did. Just like some of the mentality that we have had here with, when the sawmill was big and strong. A kid could graduate from high school and go out and work in the mill and make more money than he could if he went to college and came back and became a teacher, you know.

BARBARA: Right.

BOB: But those hay days aren't here anymore.

BARBARA: Yeah, they're gone.

BOB: And so, but that's kind of the way it was.

BARBARA: That's pretty much what they thought.

BOB: We didn't expect, or that we --- I won't say we were worthy, but we didn't really know, have any drive to do anything else because we really didn't, we didn't know, you know. Never had a radio or a telephone or ---

DOROTHEA: When you graduated from college, or I mean high school, let's go back that far, what did you do then? Did you go directly to go to work in the farm land or ---

BOB: No, I went, I graduated from high school when I was still sixteen years old. I'm proud of that, even though I was, seven days later I became seventeen. But I graduated from high school and then I enlisted in the CC Camp. Do you know what those are, the Civilian Conservation Corp?

BARBARA: Uh huh.

BOB: And I went to work there. And my father was a pretty good carpenter, and he used to do that on the side. So I was handy, I had learned to be handy and do things. And

when I got up there I worked primarily in the carpenter and building and maintenance type program. We worked for the forest service and there was a camp that was associated within the national forest. And they had projects there for us. And I stayed in that for thirty months.

DOROTHEA: And where was this?

BOB: That was in Northern Wisconsin, just about forty miles from home. And I worked in there, and very interestingly when I was back there this summer one of my younger brothers is, runs a small logging outfit, and I asked him where he was working. And he said, "Well," he said, "I'll take you up tomorrow." He said, "I'm not going to work tomorrow." He said, "I'll just get the crew going," and he said, "I'll take you with me." "Okay." And we went up to right where in 1938 and '39 I planted trees for the forest service. And those trees were that thick through. Made you feel like you did something worthwhile.

DOROTHEA: Right.

BOB: Rather inspirational to go back and look at that. But, so I --- then when I got out of the CC --- well of course in 1941 is when Pearl Harbor, and in 1922 I turned twenty-one years old, did I turn twenty years old. '42 I think, I was born in '22, turned twenty years old I guess. And I went in the army, I was drafted into the army almost --- I was out of the CC Camp about four months and I went up to the draft board. And my older brother was getting drafted and I decided, well I might as well leave when he did. There was nothing else to do so I told them I wanted to be on the draft list. And I went in the army in, I guess I officially went in the army in October in 1942.

DOROTHEA: And where did they ship you?

BOB: Then they shipped me to Oregon. After a couple of little jaunts first, but within a

week I was out at Camp Adair and part of the 96th Infantry Division. And they shipped my brother there also. So we were together until --- and then after we got in, had our training, to keep it in sequence we had, we were in Camp Adair for about a year. And then they sent us to Fort Lewis briefly. And then we left there and came on maneuvers, and we maneuvered for three or four months. First in the area around Sisters, and the beautiful country through there. And then we moved out, our next headquarters was, for me, it was out around Alfalfa, Oregon. Do you know where that is?

DOROTHEA: Nice place.

BOB: Yeah. And we went to a, my brother and I went back there this summer. Well I've been through there a lot since, see. But he just had to go back and see that. And then we, basically the maneuvers, maneuvered from that area through Millican and Brothers and through the desert on out. And then out towards Squaw Butte and then down on this, on the other side of 395 down to Wagontire and on over the Wagontire Mountains, and on towards Lakeview. We spent three or four months on those kinds of things with several other army divisions. Practiced war games, dug foxholes.

BARBARA: What did you think of the area at that time?

BOB: Well having come from Wisconsin, I was raised on a dairy farm, and having come from there and spent a lot of time there, Wisconsin is green, it's a lot of moisture, and the grass grows tall. And I'd see these cows out on the desert and I used to muse to myself, you know, what kind of a damn fool would run cattle out here. They are going to starve to death, you know. And then they don't look too bad, but why? You know, it was very interesting.

And several of us, because a lot of us were from that general area of Illinois, and Wisconsin, and through there, and we would talk about the difference in agriculture. At

that time I never dreamed that I'd one day be back out in this area, either making a living or trying to be an expert on making a living, or something like that, see.

BARBARA: So what did you think of Camp Adair? It's green country over there. Did it remind you anything of Wisconsin then?

BOB: Oh yeah, I like it. Of course we got there and it started raining, you know. And it was --- but those things weren't bad, I didn't mind. I liked Camp Adair. I liked that area very much, and I still do.

BARBARA: Well I grew up in Corvallis, so I remember when Camp Adair was ---

BOB: Yeah. I had a good friend that after I came out here to work, one of the people on the campus with the University was about my age, a little younger. And he had, he'd been in the army but later. But he had a job during, he was from Corvallis and he, well he was going to college, he had a job which took him out to Camp Adair a few times, and so on. And of course he knew the country and everything real well. So he and I spent quite a few days when I go over there, you know, he'd take me around for a day, and we'd go see what we called the Nazi village, and shooting range, and all those things we blew up, and worked on, see.

It was, and when my brother came last year out here we, or the year before it was, we took a trip all through that area. We went; when we left maneuvers out here we went down to Camp White at Medford, so I actually had a lot of time in Oregon in the different sites.

BARBARA: So what was your job when you were in the army?

BOB: I was in the infantry medics. And I was, because I can't see without my glasses they declared me a non-combatant. And typical of the army, we were in the South Pacific where one of the things that they did with the medics, and with anybody that was

supposedly non-combatant they basically painted a red cross signs off of the ambulances. Because the Japs shot at ambulances as much as they would at anything else. So we actually, we had guns mounted on them. We had the military; we lost just about as many people as the infantry. And Congress finally awarded the medics, the infantry medics, they finally awarded them combat medical pay --- or combat pay which the infantry guys got combat pay for being there. And the engineers and the medics and the signal corps, we didn't get any combat pay even though some of those people were up in front of the infantry, you know. But they finally decided that it was all combat. And so on my, on my service record in real bold letters, open faced bold letters there is stamped on there non-combatant service, see. And then in awards and decorations it basically has those things, and among them is the combat medical badge. So it's kind of interesting.

BARBARA: Yeah, right. How do you do both?

BOB: But it, yeah we went to; to finish the army we went from here to Camp White, spent the winter there. And then went, we shipped out, we shipped out of California to Hawaii and had about two months of jungle training there. And then went over, we made the initial landing on the Philippines with MacArthur's, "I will return."

BARBARA: Oh, is that right.

BOB: We went back there too.

BARBARA: I remember when you ---

BOB: Bev and I went to the Philippines when Mike was in the Peace Corp there a few years ago. We went back and retraced some of those places.

BARBARA: Did it seem the same at all?

BOB: Worse.

BARBARA: More war going on now?

DOROTHEA: Not at all what you remembered.

BOB: Well, the poverty is worse. For two reasons, one they expect more, and they have more things that do increase --- When I was there, there was no electricity, there was no nothing, you know. Now there might as well not be. You know, it's a light on the pole, and this and that. It's still very, mostly very poor in lots of those islands, you know. But ---

BARBARA: So how long were you in the Philippines then?

BOB: Well we were in there until we got ready to make the landing and go on, and we went to Okinawa. And we made, were in the group that made the, both the army and the marines made the landing in Okinawa. And we were on that.

We landed on Okinawa on April Fools Day, Easter Sunday morning. And for some reason or other we had a lot of people in our outfit that swore to god there was no such a thing as Christianity. But Easter Sunday morning before we got off the ship they all went to church. Makes believers or something, or you lean on anything you can.

BARBARA: Right.

BOB: But anyhow, we were on Okinawa for, I think we left there in August that year with the, in early August. And the intent was, we were going down to the Philippines and get ready for the invasion of Japan. And we were on the China Sea going down to the Philippines when we heard the news that the atomic bomb was dropped. And before we got to the Philippines independence was signed, or the, not independence, but peace was signed, the end of the war.

And so if anybody tells me that it wasn't, that Harry Truman didn't do a brave deed, that he did a dastardly deed by doing that, I disagree. Because it would have been, it would have been just as bad only worse in many ways if the Americans would have

landed in Japan. Because it would have been a fight to the end.

BARBARA: Not pretty.

BOB: You know, and we would have lost a lot of people on both sides. And so it was ---

DOROTHEA: How many years altogether were you in the service?

BOB: I was in the army six years. I was, when I got out of the service, or not out of the service, when I shipped back to the United States I got malaria and then I got a few more ailments and so on. And I actually was in the hospital for almost a year. I got out of the army in December in '46. And I was planning on getting discharged on January in '46. But I wound up with, well an infection --- I had a, I don't know if this needs to go on the record, but I had a, basically I got a tumor. I got a tumor in my bladder. And they still, I don't know if it was malignant or not. Things were pretty crude then, but I was diagnosed, as it was malignant. And they sent me to Walter Reed and were going to give me radiation. The way they gave radiation then was to put a radiated bolus, and just surgically put that in wherever the place was and leave it in you until it burns you out a little bit, you know.

BARBARA: Oh, my goodness.

BOB: And then they take it out. It was all trial and error. That's when penicillin was first developed. And I was in the hospital with malaria and stuff. And when they first started penicillin, and that's before they had long term, you know, long duration shots of it that would last, why every three hours they'd give you a shot of that stuff, you know.

BARBARA: You were a pincushion then.

BOB: It was very interesting. But I did fine. And I haven't had any --- they decided finally it wasn't malignant, and ---

DOROTHEA: After they burned you out.

BOB: No, I never did get the radiation.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you didn't?

BOB: They put me there for it, and I never did get any radiation. They decided, interestingly on this ward we were at, we had people that had primarily a kidney type problem. Kidney problems came in those days if you had a leg shot off, or something, well they kept you on your back until your kidneys went to hell, they didn't realize. Now you go to the hospital and they get you up walking around, and that's part of the reason. And so, of course my kidneys were bad anyhow from that tumor that I had because it had backed up in my kidneys. Not the tumor, but the infection.

And so they, in this ward I was at, they sent me on a month's leave home. And now, I'm smart now, but then I wasn't see, I was happy to come home. But I know they figured that was the last time I'd see home, you know, and that was the way the thing went. And when I got back, I was feeling pretty good. They had operated and taken that thing out of me and I was feeling a lot better. And I looked at some of the guys that I had met in the hospital, you know, and man some of them were dead already.

And we had a room up in this; they had a room in this ward. There was this one ward on this side, what had the kidney type patients on this side. Another common thing that the army people got for some reason, or at least were there was the throat cancer, and chest, you know, and this kind of stuff. And they were on the other side. And they had right in the middle of that; there was a ward that would hold about four or five people. And the people there, the patients named that St. Peter's room because if you ever went in there, you never came back.

BARBARA: Not the way you wanted to go.

BOB: No. I don't know anybody that came out of St. Peter's room. But it was rather awe

and breathtaking to walk for a while. But I was very fortunate, and very thankful, and I got discharged at that time in '46.

DOROTHEA: Is this when you decided to go to college?

BOB: No. I went home and I worked in the woods with my brother, several of my brothers and my dad that winter. And then that spring my brother Dick, the one just younger than I, we both, we went out to Montana. And the reason, we were just going to take a trip and work our way out to the apple orchards in Washington, and see the country, and see where we wanted to go and what we wanted to do. When, to me I wanted to get away. I liked, I won't say I liked farming but I didn't like milking cows, that I know. I wanted to have nothing to do with milking cows. And so we decided we'd go on out through, we shocked a little wheat in South Dakota. We started out with fifty dollars a piece and an old car. We decided that every time we got down to fifty dollars between us we'd go to work, see. Well as it turned out, we went to work the third day we were gone, and we hadn't spent too much, and we never did get down to the fifty dollars.

Because we got out, this one place in Montana, on the breaks of the Missouri River there was a big ranch up there and had just been taken over by a corporate type arrangement. It was a family that decided they wanted to buy a ranch. And they bought a ranch, and they were from Denver. And they bought quite a few little ranches around it. There was a lot of --- it had been a pretty old country of farmers and ranchers. There were, some of them were still homesteaders. Most of them were broke, you know, and had nothing other than hard work.

This, those people bought that, and it bothered me at the time, but this Taylor family bought this thing. And they put together a big ranch. And they absorbed as many of those little ones as they could. And they actually, what they did was they built a nice

home there, and put in running water, and let them stay there if they wanted to and work for them. And a lot of them did, you know. They bought the ranch from them and they had a better life than they'd ever had probably. It, of course it wasn't your own which is something that isn't good.

But I worked for them, my brother and I did that summer, and went home that fall for hunting season. And then I was ready to turn around and come back. Well I stayed there for a couple of months and then came back in early spring, back to that same ranch. And my brother didn't want to, he had too many roots back there I guess.

And I went out there and worked on the ranch for another year. And the people that owned it, there was a manager, a superintendent on the ranch, but he and I became good friends. And the --- because I was a good worker they gave me a lot of responsibility.

And the boss man, Mr. Taylor, cornered me one day and essentially he shamed me, I guess, into going to college. He told me that if I, that I should, that I had more ability than I was going to get to apply unless I got something to go with it. So he told me if I would go to college in agriculture, primarily animal science, that he would pay my way. And when I got through I could come to work for him and pay him back at my own, with no interest, and at my own time. He said, "If you don't want to come back to me," he said, "that's all right too." But he said, "You can still pay me back, just at the rate that is convenient for you." But he said, "I want you to try to go to school and see what you think about it, and see if you ---" He said, "If you only go one year," he said, "it'll help you." And he said, "If you get a degree, that's fine." But, so ---

BARBARA: Most generous man then, really.

BOB: Oh, he was a great guy. Probably the only guy, he arranged for one of his field

men to, he made an appointment, and I'm the only freshman probably that ever entered Montana State University with an interview and a tour by the president of the University. (Laughter) And I don't know, you know, that was kind of interesting. But my, people I got to know later, my kids I went to school with, they kind of kid me about that. But no, it was, and I went to school then.

And of course I was twenty-six years old, I'd been out of college, out of high school for ten years, and I decided to go to college. And so I went to school, and I really liked it. And I worked, and of course I worked like the devil my first year mostly because I didn't have any idea what it took to go to college, and if I could or couldn't do it. And I knew I was way behind. And so I wound up my first quarter was pretty much of a challenge. My second quarter I knew that I could do it. Third quarter I think I got straight A's, I really liked it. So I went four years to college, and I worked on the ranch all the time in the summer and Christmas vacations. It was just like home for me.

And my last year I decided I didn't want anything to do with the corporation ranch unless I was the owner. Because the way, you know, that was about the time that we were looking at, decisions were made on tax dodges and trade offs, rather than on good ranching practices. I talked to my friend that was the manager, and he agreed with me. He said this isn't, he said, before you make a decision, he said they talked to their tax consultants, even though the cattle are ready to sell. It's something like when tomatoes are ready to market, you can't go, you'd better move them, you know. And so, and that's true with fat cattle or anything else, it doesn't matter.

I remember Harry Pons when he was here, he'd talk about wintering cattle. And you'd say what are you going to do with them next year? Well I don't know, I may sell them anytime. Depends on what my tax attorney tells me, you know. But ---

BARBARA: Were there a lot of other ex-service men going to college at that time?

BOB: Lots. College was tough. Bev went to college then, and that's where I met her. And the competition was really rough because the GI's that were there were all ---

BARBARA: A little older.

BOB: A lot older.

BARBARA: Knew what they wanted.

BOB: They all knew that they were either going to make it, and make it well, or they're not going to waste their time at it. There were a few party boys but, you know, mainly it was hard, it was rough. I mean the competition was rough, which is good for anybody.

BARBARA: Right.

BOB: And so that was great.

DOROTHEA: How did you meet your wife?

BOB: Well, in church actually. We had a, we went to the same church and they had a Newman Club which was a college student's club and that's actually where I met her. And then, believe it or not, she was a chemist. She is a chemist see by training. And chemistry is about the hardest subject as there is for a farm kid. (Laughter) So we had, I mean through this and that, you know, I knew one of her classmates actually before I knew Bev, that was in some of the classes with me. I never was in a class with Bev. She was a year behind me in school. But I was with this girl, Gloria Harrison, and she and I worked together and struggled through math, and some chemistry and science classes. We just happened to hit it off and we got to be good friends as well as--- and I, so I didn't even know that she knew Bev when I met Bev, see.

But anyhow that --- then when I decided, two things made me decide not to go back to the ranch. One is I didn't want to go back to that type of background, or that type

of activity. If I wanted to ranch, I wanted to either do it on one that I could have a personal interest in it. Looking to the fact of one day of owning it, things like that.

And of course Bev was born in the city of Butte, which was one of the biggest little cities in the world at that time. Butte was, when she grew up was forty or fifty thousand people. And it had a very big city atmosphere, culturally and everything else. And so I knew that she wasn't really farm oriented, and ranch oriented, and so it was a matter of where do we go, and what do we do.

Well before this, we hadn't even planned to get married. I was a year ahead of her, but I decided that I wanted to go to school some more. I liked it, and I wanted to go on. So I applied for graduate school and I went to Utah to do, to start up my master's degree. And then she had a year back in Bozeman, and when she finished school we made plans to get married. Well then she got a job in Utah with chemistry, and working with one of the laboratories there. And so she got a job there, and so we got married that December, actually. She graduated in the spring, and we got married that December. And ---

DOROTHEA: What year was that?

BOB: I knew you'd ask me. I know, really! I graduated, well it was 1953. I graduated from college in '52, and she did in '53. And David was born in '54, and so on and so forth.

DOROTHEA: What was her maiden name?

BOB: Her name was Drew. D R E W.

BARBARA: So she's from Butte, and you met in Bozeman, is that right?

BOB: Yeah, we met in Bozeman. And then we went to Utah and we worked there for ---

BARBARA: Was this Salt Lake, or Provo, or where ---

BOB: Logan, Utah.

BARBARA: Okay.

BOB: At Utah State.

BARBARA: At Utah State. Okay.

BOB: And she worked as a chemist there for about two years. In fact even after the kids were born, whenever they'd have a job that --- she didn't work full time then. But if she had a job she could get on and do for them, she would, which helped keep us alive.
(Laughter)

We went to Bozeman, or to Logan, and as I, when I got my master's degree then I decided that I really wanted to go on and get a PhD. But I didn't know when or where. And I really felt I had to work awhile first, and get ahead on things, to get the bills paid. And so my major professor there at Utah wanted me to stay there and work with him. He wanted to go on a leave. And so I stayed there, and in the process I got a couple of grants and put together things and saw how I could put together my PhD there. So I stayed there, I was there from '52 to '59. In June of '59 I got my PhD. And on June of '59, our fourth son Michael was born. So that was rather a historic day, or date.

And so we left. And then we left there, well I got my degree in June of '59, and I stayed on the staff. I was on the staff then at Utah State, and I stayed on that until --- I told them I wanted a different job, that I wanted to leave. And then this came up, and we looked at it in the fall of '59. We were, most bleak looking place in the world, 1959, in November. We stayed down in the City Center Motel, might have been the best one in town then, I don't know.

DOROTHEA: Pretty close.

BOB: And we drove over to Corvallis, and we looked at this. And of course as far as the

opportunity to do the things I wanted to do, and all this and that, I thought they were great, you know, and they were. And they made me some promises if I'd come that I'd get a lab, and I could do this and that. So we did all those things. And so I moved, we moved over here and went to work on March 1, 1960.

BARBARA: So you actually came to work for Oregon State College.

BOB: Oregon State Agricultural College.

BARBARA: Right, at that time.

BOB: That was quite interesting. When I went to Utah State, Utah State was Utah State Agricultural College. So my degree, masters is from Utah State Agricultural College. And when I got my PhD it was Utah State University. So, but it was the same school. And then they did the same thing over here.

BARBARA: I was working at the college when that happened. When we went to the university we thought we were big stuff then.

BOB: But ---

BARBARA: So you actually came on as, with extension or ---

BOB: No.

BARBARA: How was that?

BOB: I was --- I came on, worked for Squaw Butte as a research scientist.

BARBARA: I see.

BOB: In animal science. I was, a guy by the name of Ferris Hubbard, Dr. Hubbard had been here and he left and took a job in Arizona, which was quite interesting because I applied for that same job, and he got in Arizona. And I would have taken it, I would of, but I'm happy that I didn't. I wanted to get away from the college. I like the University, but I don't want to work ---

BARBARA: It's time for a change.

BOB: I don't want the full --- those people in Corvallis used to feel sorry for us out here, but I thought we had the best of both worlds. Because we had all the privileges of the University professor, but we didn't have the damn headaches, and the protocols, and this and that. Our friends didn't have to be purely University people. Which, when you're in Corvallis, that's where you life centers around.

BARBARA: You circle of friends are, yes, uh huh.

SIDE B

BARBARA: Okay, so you arrived in Burns in March, and what was your position with the college then? Did they rank you just as a professor with them, or how would you ---

BOB: I was hired as an assistant professor of animal science.

BARBARA: I see.

BOB: And stationed here, and I was in charge of the animal science research program here. And Joe Wallace was here at that time. He'd been here for about two years, and he was kind of the assistant in animal science. We really, we worked together. But he had the second job in it, which he had with Ferris Hubbard. And then I stayed, I was the animal scientist here, and I think we built up a good program while I was the scientist here, in charge of it. We, Joe left and went on back to school and got his PhD. And we hired another person, and then he stayed his five years and left. (Laughter) Then we hired Harley Turner, who had just finished his PhD. And he has been here ever since. And then in

BARBARA: Was Forrie Sneva here when you came?

BOB: Forrie was here. And Forrie and I were in school at Utah State. He was, he had just left when I got there.

BARBARA: Oh.

BOB: And so I didn't really know Forrie then, until I came here. We had lots of things in common.

BARBARA: In common then.

BOB: That we knew a lot of the same people, and so on. And yeah, we could tell stories about the same places, where people lived, and married people, and married student housing, and such like that, you know. And how broke we were! But ---

BARBARA: So what mainly was your job here in setting up what kind of a program?

BOB: Well, it was basically looking at, looking at range livestock, nutrition, and management. My, as I saw my job, it was primarily to inventory the range resource from an animal scientist's point of view and determine how it could be most effectively used for efficient, and hopefully profitable livestock production. And then further, my job was to work with the extension service, even though we weren't extension people, but with them in helping to convey this information to the ranchers, and around the state, and also to publish it and so on. So the scientific people could read it, and see it.

DOROTHEA: Including you, how many employees were there at that time?

BOB: At the station?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BOB: At that time there were, professional employees were, there were two of us with the University, and three of them with the federal government, for agriculture research service, which Forrie was. But the same type of a position, it was a research position. And we've had our ups and downs through that.

I, we went down to where, when I became superintendent we were down to two people state, and two people federal. And we worked, and promoted, and fought and we dang near lost the federal program. But we got another state man on. We got money from the legislature to hire a third scientist, which is what they have now, on the state side. And then we got, we got four is what we finally got, four people. And then we lost our federal program down to Forrie Sneva. And then the year Forrie retired we really went to bat, and I won't say, it wasn't me, it was, I helped.

But we fought the battle, the ranchers around here did, the ranchers in Nevada, and the ranchers in California. Because they have basically, this station serves the ranchers in all the sagebrush, bunchgrass area, as well as in the short sage and brush and browse down in Nevada and Northern California. We had very good support from those people. And so the pressure was put on politically. And we actually got a bigger federal program now than we ever had, that we have managed to get. And we got that, oh about six, seven years ago, and when we finally got the rest of it. And so all told it's been a very, as far as I'm concerned, a fruitful program for me. And it was I think a good program for the University, and those that use the program.

DOROTHEA: For someone listening to this tape, would you describe the place, and the area that you are working in? It's called Section Five.

BOB: Oh, yeah. The Squaw Butte Experiment Station is basically a part of the Oregon State University, and it's also part of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. And part of it is owned with owner-ship held by both groups, but controlled by a single person, which is the superintendent of the station. And so while you are superintendent of the station, you're really, if you're a state or federal employee, you wore the hat of managing both programs. And then in 1974, they added to this station. They added a station just like

this one almost, but in a different area, in the Union County. They added Eastern Oregon Agriculture Research Station to this Eastern Oregon one. So it now became the, that's when we became Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, rather than Squaw Butte. And we then had, I took that over in 1974, which basically meant that as well as managing the research program on those places, the superintendent had a cattle ranch up there, and a cattle ranch down here that he had to manage. And the ranch up there consisted of about a section of irrigated land, right in the city of Union. And it's right in, right within the city limits. And then we had two thousand acres of rangeland, which was all forested rangeland, and much higher quality than most of the rangeland we've got here as far as acres per cattle, you know. And so we could run, we ran up there about two thousand, about two hundred head of brood cows. And down here we usually run about three hundred head of brood cows. So we have basically two family size ranches, one up there, and one down here. And we had to manage those, both to accommodate the research that we were doing, but we also were expected to, I won't say manage them at a profit, but to manage them. Because a lot of the money that we got to do work with came from the sale of our cattle. So that became part of our budget.

So unlike a rancher, I mean he's got to take the money that he makes on that ranch to manage the ranch, and for his family to have a living, and so on, and pay his taxes. And we didn't have to pay taxes. But we did have to, or we were expected to make the money to carry us through in drought and bad times. And we were also expected to carry it through from both the standpoint of managing the ranches per se, as well as providing some of the money for the research program.

DOROTHEA: Did they hire summer and winter help for feeding the cattle, and this?

BOB: Oh yes, we had and still have, we had a staff of about six scientists which --- of

course that came from dollars, that came from state and federal, the salaries for those people. And then we also had technicians that worked with them, strictly to work on their research projects. And then we had some of those people doubled as farm crew. And then some people were just separate as farm crew, that basically took care of the cattle herd and primarily the work part of it, you know.

On the alfalfa, for example, on the Union Station we had a couple of farmers that farmed the land and put up the hay, as we have down here. So it was --- but the thing is, it was an interesting place to work. I mean I really, it was doing the things that I wanted to do. I enjoyed the research because that's what I got in school, and what I grew up then liking, and really saw what I could do. And I enjoyed the hands on part of the ranch operation, because that's how I grew up was living and working on a farm. That's where I worked in Montana too, so it, to me it was great. I enjoyed it.

BARBARA: And did you do a lot of writing too, Bob? Papers, writing technical papers.

BOB: Writing, yes. We had to, one of the things you have to --- I thought you said riding.

BARBARA: Oh.

BOB: That's the thing I like to do the best, was getting out. And as the years went by and I became superintendent I enjoyed that very much. But I think the thing I like least about being superintendent is it took me further and further away of some of the hands on things. Because you don't have time to do that then, see. But I used to go out and do a lot of riding.

But now getting back to writing, yes we are expected to publish the results of what we do, and to publish these in terms that the ranching community can get something out of them. And in scientific journals so that the scientists can get, use them that way. And that's how you, in the academic circle, that's how you maintain your job and get your

promotions. If you don't --- you've heard the story about publish or perish, you know. And I think there is too much pressure put on that in lots of ways. But it is pretty real, and a person has to.

For example a young man that comes to work for the Experiment Station, he comes to work with his PhD, and he comes to work supposedly prepared to go to work and become a scientist. Well in order to get a promotion he's got, through the University system, and most of them are alike, you've got about six years to get promoted from an assistant professor to an associate professor, and get tenure. Now tenure I don't believe in. But it is one of those things that happens, and it's part of the system. Because if you get to that point and you're any good, they're not going to get rid of you anyhow. And, but it does, the good thing about it is, it's a goal to shoot for.

And you've gone six months, that as superintendent I could work with these people and help guide them and push them and so on, so they made their tenure and made their promotion and became productive scientists. And they knew they had to, so they had a goal to shoot at. And someways that's good, and some ways it isn't. But it did give us a tool, and we had a few people that we told, we did get rid of, we had to. And not because --- they were out of place.

One guy I'll never forget, we got rid of one man that just about made me cry. But he didn't belong there. I told him that for five years, you know, that he just wasn't, he ought to go into something else, and so on. And he finally did, and he's doing great. And so ---

BARBARA: So does a lot of your information then go back to the professors in the classrooms, for them to use?

BOB: Yeah.

BARBARA: And so do some of the classes still come over here for field trips, for a week or whatever to study?

BOB: We have ---

BARBARA: I know Ev came over here; he had a class at one time when he was in school.

BOB: Yeah. We have a lot of the people on campus; a lot of the professors will bring students over here on field trips. We have them from Humbolt College, and from Davis, and from Nevada, and we've had them from Idaho schools, and Washington. They'll bring classes over and spend a week with us, or a few days, or something. And then we also would be invited and coerced into coming to the University, going over to the University and teaching classes on and off over there which was always fun I thought. I enjoyed that. And no, we are, the people here are really part of the University. And they actually ---

BARBARA: Well a lot of times people don't think of you people out there as being college people, really.

BOB: Oh, I think that's right. And I think that's, I don't see anything wrong with that, other than I do think that, it's up to us. Marty don't work on that. I used to work on that a lot harder, on coming into Chamber meetings, and trying to get the people to make talks, and this and that. And it's something I think they need to work on a little more.

And, but this has changed. We used to have a county agent, you remember Ray? He was a great one for, to work with, Ray Novotney. That he would, boy, you know, he would get you in here and you were part of the system, you now. And then this goes up and down though. Times have changed, you know, everything has.

DOROTHEA: Oh boy, hasn't it.

BOB: Some of the pressures are different than, people are different. But by in large, no they're, the people out there are supposed to, and do follow the basic standards of the University. They have to compete with everybody at the University for promotions and for salary, and so on in much the same way. A lot of things are in their favor, and a lot of things are in the other people's favor because, just by the nature of their jobs and where they are, and so on.

To me one of the beauties of being here, I think that's the important thing, is, and I think most of our people feel that way or else they don't stay. I'm, I was very happy, and I loved being part of the University, and I liked going over there and associating with them for different things, and so on. But I wanted the rest of my life to be out where I wanted to be, and where I could spend it where our friends could be the people in the community rather than the people that you answered to every day in your work. I didn't really want to be a social associate with the whole University. Nothing against that, you know, but I really appreciate the fact that I could live here and, well the people we play bridge with, the people we did this with, they represented people from the farms, the ranchers, the sawmill, the doctors, and the lawyers, and the woods people, and ourselves. And to me that was, makes a much more complete way to live.

BARBARA: How much land is involved with --- out at Squaw Butte?

BOB: Twenty-five sections of land at Squaw Butte, which is sixteen thousand acres. And that is, it's all controlled by the Experiment Station, by us, our Experiment Station. But it is owned actually; most of it is owned by BLM. And it is withdrawn from BLM and turned over to the Department of Agriculture for U.S.D.A. for research.

Part of the land within the Squaw Butte Station is actually state school lands that belong to the state lands board, or are managed by them. And the University goes

through the station, goes through the practice of leasing that from them. They're not going to give it to someone else, that's not the problem. But we have to lease it, just to make it go through the books and make it legal. And then we have another section and a half of it is county land that went back years ago from homesteads into, onto the tax rolls and became county land. It was land that was proved up and had ownership proven, and then the taxes went back, and so the county got it. And we lease it from the county. We've got a lifetime lease.

Actually the whole station is kind of a lifetime lease. As long as it's used for the Experiment Station, that's where it will be.

BARBARA: And then how much land do you have out at Section Five?

BOB: We've got a section, just exactly a section of land. And then up at Union we've got a section of land that's farmland. And we've got two thousand roughly, two thousand acres of forested land.

BARBARA: So all of the business part is taken care of out at Section Five then? There is no offices or buildings as such out at Squaw Butte then where ---

BOB: Haven't you ever been to Squaw Butte?

BARBARA: No, I haven't. I hate to tell you.

DOROTHEA: I haven't either.

BARBARA: Eric worked all those summers, and he tells about it.

BOB: Well that's history. The Squaw Butte Experiment Station as such out there was established in the 1930's when the U. S. Government decided it was time to put public lands under management. Up to that time there was a forest service, but that was before BLM ever came into being. And they started up the Taylor Grazing Service, and the Taylor Grazing Service was a forerunner of the BLM. And all of those grazing lands were

put under that management, and the headquarters of a big region of the Taylor Grazing was the Squaw Butte Experiment Station.

BARBARA: Oh.

BOB: It wasn't known as that then, it was the Squaw Butte location or something. And they built up out there three or four dwellings. They had a mess hall, they had a lot of shops and barns, and it's really quite a little village out there.

BARBARA: I see.

BOB: And an office, and a couple of wells, and all this was put in. The three C's did this. That was built in the '30's in the depression years by the CC Camp. And there was a CC Camp out there near the Gap Ranch area. And they built; one of their projects was building that up. Then there was another CC's; I don't know whether they were the same camp that did a lot of the construction work down on the refuge. That was done with CC people.

BARBARA: I think there were four or five different locations.

DOROTHEA: I think that was a different one.

BOB: I think there were several camps around. Which I think it would be quite interesting to find out where they were, and maybe a little more about them.

DOROTHEA: Well Marcus Haines could tell you that.

BOB: Well Marcus can tell you a lot. I hope he put it some place where the rest of us can read it some time. (Laughter) But I, no I know pretty well, you know, because I've talked with Marcus a lot about that, but we do have that much history from the station.

And then the Taylor Grazing at the same time that, back another twenty years, back in 1908 I think it was, they started an Experiment Station out on the other side of the airport in Burns, Harney County. And it was on county land, but it was run by the

University and they leased it from the county. And it was, Dorland Ray was the guy who finally was out there for a while. Allan Braymen ran that for a long time.

DOROTHEA: I think he still is.

BOB: As a rancher, farmer. And they lived out there when I came. And they had about a half a section I believe of land there. And the intent of it was, of that station was basically to see what you could do to save the homesteader. It was a, a homesteader was given a quarter section of land which he gradually starved to death on. Because you don't make a living on this desert on a, you know, on that acreage.

DOROTHEA: You know when I was growing up, that was a very, very interesting place because it had all the nice buildings.

BOB: They had nice buildings there. They put in irrigation, they had, dug some wells, and they had irrigated crops. They finally decided that ---

DOROTHEA: It's gone the way now of all old homesteads.

BOB: Yeah, right. It sure has.

DOROTHEA: Died.

BOB: But anyhow, they, when they put to --- that station basically concluded that if they were going to make this a farming country, and I'm separating farming from cattle agriculture now, and that they had to have more intensive activity than just plowing up the desert and planting on it. In other words, they had to have crops designed for it, they had to have controlled irrigation, and such as that. And so with the advent of the station, the grassland station if you'll have it, or the Taylor Grazing place, the University associated with them in looking at strictly cattle and grass management. And that's when they leased; it was in, I think right before the war, somewhere in the '38 or '39 that they leased the section of land that the station is on now. And that was, I think part of the old Hanley's

Bell-A, I think they owned. I can't remember for sure. But that's all in the stuff down there.

And they leased that, and with an option to buy, and they bought it in '46 or '47 or something like that. Some of the old buildings down there, the old houses were, they've all been re-changed, but they've been built around. But there is a couple of them still are relics of the old Experiment Station out there that were moved down there.

DOROTHEA: I remember when I went to school and we rode the bus we picked up several kids from families that lived there. And it was the Experiment Station; well it was Section Five then. So it was just a branch of the Experiment Station.

BOB: Yeah, uh huh.

DOROTHEA: But the actual Experiment Station was the one out by the airport.

BOB: That's right, they still had it. And then they had the one out here that basically they developed it, basically to manage between Squaw Butte and there.

DOROTHEA: Right.

BOB: And then ultimately they gave up the place out by the airport and just took this one on, that way. And that was ---

DOROTHEA: When you say you're raising, you know, cattle for part of the sale expense wise, and things like this, did you also raise grain or hay to a certain type or make it a better quality hay?

BOB: Yeah, that was part of the research and management was to not only learn what you could about managing the range to give you the most effective livestock production, but it was also to work on this end and try to improve on the quality of hay or introduce new varieties. See what it took to put in alfalfa, and then how you use that in relation with the rest of it, you know, and so on. Because the whole thing was, yeah there was a lot of

research done out here on primarily grass improvement.

DOROTHEA: Are they still improving the grass out there, or is it gone back to mostly native grass?

BOB: Well, there is a little bit of alfalfa out there on one place, and they irrigate that. And they do have a wheel line irrigation now on that, on about eighty acres. And that is partly, when we had, at one time we had a pretty effective research program on, to look at and see what we'd have to do if we were going to convert these meadows to all irrigation, you know. Of course the first thing you've got to do is drain them so you can control the water and things like that. But by in large it's maintained, the decisions were made that we were, on this Experiment Station, were to work primarily with the cattle complex rather than the agronomy complex. In other words, even though we may work on improving the grass both in quality and quantity, that we look at more how this fits into the effectiveness of cattle management. So it become, what it is, is the job out here is primarily to work in the area of range livestock production, in other words, and everything that goes with it. Not to work in potatoes, not to work in grains, and so on.

DOROTHEA: Now are you still running this amount, this amount of head of cattle yet? Or have you cut down to where it's not a very large herd now?

BOB: I think they've got right at three hundred cows.

DOROTHEA: They still do?

BOB: Yeah, I think so. See I haven't been, that's the next phase of this. See I quit being superintendent about four years ago, five. I retired a year; it will be two years this July that I retired. But I was superintendent for fifteen years, and then I decided that I wanted to get out of being the superintendent, and somewhere you've got to make these decisions. I had done about all that I felt that I really could do at that level and I wanted to

get back into a few years of research and wrap things up.

Well what I did was go, I looked at what I might do, and the way dollars were it was very hard to --- we had to hire a superintendent from within. We had to basically, because I wasn't going to quit, see. (Laughter) I wasn't going to take a cut in pay. And so basically they, we moved Marty Vavra who had been stationed at Union before, but was on our staff, we moved him down here to take over as superintendent.

And then I went back to basically working on a research program. And I had some odds and ends that I was working with, and wanted to finish up. But what I did was I saw an opportunity to get some more money for the station, and help us out as well. And I wrote a grant for the Bonneville Power Company, and I spent the last three years I was with them, almost the last four, that I spent half of my time working over in the Madras area on the, what we called our Bonneville Project, where we were looking at the effects of high voltage power on livestock production. Which was very interesting for me.

DOROTHEA: That's interesting to me too.

BOB: It was, two reasons it was interesting to do it. It was starting from scratch. I had never been involved in it, and I'd never been --- and it was an opportunity to build up a facility, and it's the first time I ever had a job in my life where money was not limited. I wrote the job and got the grant, and I got all the money that I asked for.

And I wanted, the first time I've ever been able to hire. I hired six people to basically do the work. I mean I was the manager, or the boss, but I hired an on site manager and five people to work with him. And I hired all of them fresh so that when I got number one, then we could hire number two to compliment them. And then when we got him, we could hire number three to compliment those two, and so on. And it was really fun just working with people that way. And coming up with a group of people that, well I

had one guy, you know, they were all basically animal scientists or agricultural oriented. They were all college kids. The guy that was managing the study was a PhD in range, and with a livestock background, and so on. And a guy from the Medford area. And the other guys were just; they were all animal science or range science bachelor degree people. And they all complimented each other very, very well.

One of the guys I hired was an old, old Jack Royal who had been the supervisor of the forest service over there in Prineville, and worked in this and that and he retired. He had his time in, and he wanted to work, you know. And he cornered me for a job. And I said, "Do you know what you're going to be doing?" "Yeah," he said. And he was fun, you know. God, he was like the father to all of them. And he was a very well liked, you know as a forest service employee. Going around the ranch community, you know, sometimes you've got to look pretty hard to find somebody that will say a good word. But everybody said a good word about Jack. He was one of those guys that everybody liked. I had more people out here that had run cattle up, Cowan ran up on the Ochoco, you know, up there. And some of those people would ask me, they heard Jack Royal was working for me, well you give him my regards, you know, and so on. But they were ---

DOROTHEA: Well can you tell us some of the effects of electricity has to cattle?

BOB: Well, as far as we were concerned, absolutely nothing.

DOROTHEA: Absolutely nothing.

BOB: I was talking to Jack Drinkwater about that and he says, "You know the only thing I've observed about cattle under the power line," he said, "they go under the power line on purpose and lay under there during fly season because the flies don't stay on them."

DOROTHEA: I think the buzz ---

BOB: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, of the power lines has something to do with that. This was interesting to me, because we have all gone through this stage, you know, of running cows under the lines. And you notice a lot of times you'll drive cows down through under the lines too. Not only is the brush not quite so thick, but you don't have the fly bother.

BOB: Yeah. We managed, we built pens, we ran these cattle in, they were range cattle, but we ran them in, basically in confinement. We had them in big pens. We had four pens, one under each span of power line, you know. Just, and right side by side. And then we went over about three quarters of a mile to the west on the same terrain, same area, we put the same four pens, and that was our control. And we measured, had big instruments to measure the electrical behavior and the atmosphere and so on, on both so we could relate these things.

And then we ran a hundred cows under each one of those places under the control and under the line. And they stayed there for about three and a half years. They had, we had three calf crops under them. And we had absolutely, not a measurable bit of difference from one to the other. We had conception rates that were absolutely identical, you know, right down to the wire. When we were done we slaughtered all the cattle. That's the thing that hurt, we slaughtered all the cattle and looked at everything. We had veterinarians there and other experts in the veterinary field, and looking for everything abnormal you could find. And we couldn't find a thing wrong with anything.

In fact my, the guy I had that was the manager that lived there all the time, we had a house trailer up there for him. And he and his wife lived almost underneath that dang line. And they were married, they had no children. And she got pregnant and they had a young son. They are all doing fine. (Laughter) Told ... you better watch out, that power line will do things to you.

But it was very interesting. And we did get, the University got as a result of our work, they got an overhead figure that was worth about five hundred thousand dollars. And we got a chunk of that. And then all the equipment that we bought was ours. We bought brand new tractors, and brand new pickups, and all of those became the stations after we used them for the three --- the study, and of course all the maintenance was done under them. And then the cattle, we had to buy; I had to borrow the money to buy the cattle. And I did it through one of the foundations from the campus. I got them, talked them into loaning us the money to do it. And I didn't think I could go to the bank. I wished I could of because, you know, it's a hell of a good deal. We got the money, we bought the cattle and so we owned them. And we used them on this study, and the only way we would have lost is if our premise would have been totally wrong and they would have all died, you know. And, but we sold three calf crops off of them, and then when we were done we sold the final product. And so we paid back our debt with interest. And we put in pretty close to a hundred and fifty thousand dollars in a fund over on campus in the same foundation, but earmarked it for a foundation for the Experiment Station that we can live off. Take the interest of it and use it for graduate students, hiring you know, and stuff like that, and so on. I feel very good about it.

BARBARA: How many cows did you have?

BOB: Two hundred. Yeah.

BARBARA: Two hundred.

DOROTHEA: A hundred in each pen.

BOB: A hundred in each group, yeah. It was a lot of fun.

DOROTHEA: What do you feel are some of the major accomplishments that you have done during your time in working out there at Squaw Butte?

BOB: Well I think I accomplished quite a little as superintendent from that side of the thing. I think I built up the program two or three times of what it was when I started. We built a new office and moved out of a rented post office up town here. We moved out of there and moved out into the office. And we built that at no outside money to the taxpayers. I guess ultimately somebody paid for it. But we got, it didn't come out of a grant from the University or anything like that. We got the money to do it. And we got that built, and we upgraded a lot of things. So I think we have a lot more potential to do research, and continue. And I think probably part of that was the effort that I put in as the superintendent, and then the people that helped.

And certainly all of the support that we got from the industry, both the business industry and the ranch industry in making sure that we got and maintained the program. I think we increased our state program, we increased our federal program. First we hung onto it, and then we increased it by, well it was so poor that to put a percentage on how much we increased it would be like five or six times, you see. But it is, so that it is a viable program.

And as far as the, what the research then on the station accomplishes is one of those things that is a lot harder to measure. But there are a lot of areas that, for example on the station itself, on Squaw Butte and Section Five, if we keep good records and we go through things, and so on, and with the management of those two pieces of land in 19 --- well before I came here, in about 1956 I think. I went back on those records and through a few years there, and we basically, can't remember the figures too well, but it seems to me that we had about a hundred and fifty cows out there. And we sold X number of pounds of calves off of those cows. And we had to buy hay, or extra feed to maintain those cattle at Section Five and Squaw Butte. Now that was the condition of the place.

So we really didn't have enough land to run those hundred and fifty. And then something like, oh five years before I retired we went over the thing and made a similar study. And we looked at averages, and a lot of things are dictated by the research program you got, you know. But if we looked at averages and so on, we were, had more than doubled the cow numbers that the same area of land could carry. And we had almost quadrupled the additional income from it.

And if you look at the price of calves, and you can attest to this, in 19 --- this is hard for people to realize, in 1951 and '52 we were getting about fifty, fifty-two cents per calves. And now the last few years we've got some good prices for calves. But for the early half of the '80's, and the last half of the '70's we were damn lucky if we got fifty cents for calves. It was more like looking at forty.

DOROTHEA: This is something that I tried to explain to someone, that how the change of living has increased so much ---

BOB: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: --- but the rancher has lived with the same thing for the last forty years.

BOB: Yeah, you know, my salary during that period as a worker out there has gone up umpteen times compared to that. But the price of the calf is still the same. Well the only place, so when I'm talking about these kinds of things, we're talking about pounds of beef, and/or dollars if you want to put on it. But if the cattle prices would have gone up like they should have in this same thing, it would be a great success story. But so would the ranchers have a great success story.

DOROTHEA: This is true.

BOB: But it is really a ---

DOROTHEA: This is a sad story for all ranchers. But everyone thinks that they are so

rich, and really everybody has had such an increase in their living standards, but the rancher has remained the same. And it's a sad thing, you know, to tell this. But you can -
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BOB: Well his costs have gone up, you know, and the only way that the rancher has stayed alive, and that's true with the station out there if you want to look at it when I say this, if you look at the fact that we were able to move through improvement of the forage resource and the farm resource. We were able, and better management on it, we were able to double the size of our animal, the size of our herd. And basically quadruple the production off of that by better management, and this and that. And that's what's really happened to the ranchers too.

And that's why we're feeding the population --- you know I remember when we used to say, boy we're going to starve to death, you know. We're just a couple years from being able to where we're not going to meet the production requirement. And every year we've got surpluses, you know. We cut off acres, and we still got more grain. So it's, agriculture is a great success story if you look at what's happened. Anyhow ---

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DOROTHEA: Bob, you've done a lot of work at Squaw Butte, and now that you've retired can you tell us something about what you're doing, and maybe tell us how long you've been retired, and what date you retired.

BOB: Well I retired officially on July 1, 1988. And since that time, of course I've been catching up on finishing up the things I didn't get done, which I haven't quite finished yet. I've still got a couple reports to write. But I do intend to totally divorce myself from, pretty much from the activities of the Experiment Station, and help where I can. But I want to

just get involved in living the rest of my life doing things that we want to do.

By we, I mean my wife and I. We took a big long trip this summer. We burned up lots of gasoline, and had a great time. We traveled and saw all of my family back in --- I've got a son in St. Louis, and another one in Bloomington, Indiana. Then I have brothers and sisters, and nieces and nephews scattered around through that Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, area. And we stopped and visited a lot of those people, and then came back through Montana and visited friends.

I'm convinced that the way to enjoy retirement --- Bev went, when I retired she went on a sixty percent level of employment, and did that for two reasons. And as long as the Experiment Station, she works out there as a chemist, and as long as they're happy with that much effort from her, well then that's how long she'll work. And after that, if they aren't, if they feel they have to hire a full-time person well then she will retire. Because she is younger than me, but she could retire the same time I did. She could have retired, and with her service, and so on.

So basically the thing that we want to do is plan her work schedule, and our schedule, then the rest of our schedule to make the most of that time. What we can do, and visiting our family and friends, and doing some of the things we've put off doing that, traveling. And we don't have any great plans right now to go around the world or anything. And I don't know if we ever will.

But we do have a lot of good quality time that we want to spend with our kids and our grandkids and friends that we've made. You know when you go to three different schools, and then you work in the field for thirty years, and work for another one, you meet a lot of people. Plus the communities we've lived in, we have friends and acquaintances all over the country. Not only the Western United States, but Eastern as

well, and also a few foreign countries. And I don't know, we haven't made any plans, as I said, for any foreign countries. But we may do that too. We're --- but we do want to spend some quality time on good planned vacations, not too structured, but just go the way we want to, when we do.

But so we know now --- we haven't set the date but we're going to go on a vacation sometime, probably through most of April, and get back in time to cut the grass in May and start that.

We want to, we're going to stay in Burns, and we want, at least for a while, and make Burns our headquarters. And I decided to run for the city council, and it's my every intent to give what I can to it. And if I can't, that's when I'll retire from that. I feel that I have the time, the energy, and the knowledge, and the interest and so on to commit myself and do some good things there. And so these will also be scheduled in and fit with whatever we do. And ---

BARBARA: What are some of your goals and plans that you have in working with the city council? Some of the things that you would like to see happen?

BOB: I'd like to see lots of things happen. And if you want to

BARBARA: Feasible things I guess I should say.

BOB: Well, I think everything is possible. I'd like to see us; this may not be as much of a city thing as it is a community, and even a county thing. I think we need to, and I am working with a group on this, this PRIDE group, that one of our concerns is what can we do about the community to improve the, I guess you would call it the pride in this community. What do we want as a community? It's not a matter of what Bob Raleigh wants, it's a matter of what do we want. And if we look at it, we need to have some full

employment, at least for the people we have. And if that brings in more, well that's good too.

And in my opinion it would be great to dream and say, well gee, I can remember when I was on the school board, you know, you would hear people come in and they'd say we need another big gym. We need a playhouse for school this' and that's'. We need a theater. And the whole thing is we've got to be able to support those things before we get them. Then if we support them, if we can get the nucleus to support this, then these are things that are going to come, if we want them.

And so that's kind of what I'm --- I'd like to immediately, I'd like to see us, and I think we're working on that, I'd like to see us improve the City of Burns with our limited resources. I'd like to see us improve the streets we have, I'd like to see us pave more streets. I'd like to see us pave all the streets. I'd like to see us, now I'm getting personal on a few things, I'd like to see us clean up the town. I'd like to see the --- well I can look out the window and it's clean and not garbage blowing around, or this and that. I think we could have a better, and I'm not complaining about the people that are picking up the garbage, I'm complaining about myself and my neighbors on how we let things go until they look slovenly. And I think if we don't do it, the state's going to do it for us. I think we're going to have to get rid of burn barrels ultimately. And I'd like to do it ourselves rather than be told to do it. And I think we can do this by looking at, to recycling garbage, that which is possible, and getting that done. Getting the rest of it --- and then have a general all around garbage pick-up, if you want to call it. I don't want, I hate to use the word mandatory. But I think, you know, where we don't have to, some guy here don't have to burn his garbage. He can set it out on the street and it'll be picked up and taken away, and taken care of.

And I think all of this will come if we can improve the attitude of our people, the feeling of them, that I want this. You know, if we can get people in, how do you do it? Well can we organize into community areas where you develop pride in what you have within that community that set an example for the rest of them.

Now those are some of the hows you do it, rather than what we ought to do. But I really feel that we need to work, I think we need to work together. I think we need to get a feeling that even though you are from Burns, or even if you're from Hines you can be competitive to a certain point. But you've got to talk positively about both, and the county. We've got, I mean I want to be able to have the people in Crane and Frenchglen and Hines feel good about Burns. And I want to have us feel good about those people in the same way, and their communities. And if we can get to that, then I think we can make a better life for all of us. We're spending too much money on taxes.

DOROTHEA: This is right.

BOB: But the important thing is, isn't how much money we're spending, it's what we're getting out of them. And I'm not picking on anyone either. I mean I just feel that we need to see if we can't do a more concerted job of working together so that we can get a better return on the money that we spend at all levels. And of course right along with this, if you want to talk about the priorities, and I'm not working on that other than supporting it, but I think we very definitely got to, have to, get this hospital thing in order. I think we've got to have; we've got to get doctors. You can't get doctors if you don't have a hospital. You can't run a hospital if you don't have doctors.

BARBARA: That's right.

BOB: So there is nothing easy about it. It's just got to ---

DOROTHEA: Well there too, you can't get doctors to come to a town that originally

looked like Burns. Because if you were to have come to this town in 1959, looking as it does today, and I don't want to really down the town, because I live here. But still in all I've been here for forty years, and in that forty years this town has done nothing but go downhill.

BOB: We haven't made much progress anyhow.

DOROTHEA: And I doubt if you would have come to work here, looking at the town as it looks today.

BOB: Well we were a lot better off as far as the hospital was concerned then.

DOROTHEA: No, no.

BOB: We were, you know ---

DOROTHEA: The hospital, but I mean looking at the town itself.

BOB: Well, I think you're right. It would certainly be a factor. But when you bring people in here to work, one of the things that they are concerned with is the hospital, and the doctors that are going to be here.

DOROTHEA: Do you have doctors? This is right.

BOB: They are concerned about the churches that are here.

BARBARA: And the school system.

BOB: That's probably the strong point that we have. And our schools, I think our schools have been good. I think we have had our problems, but I think we have had good schools.

BARBARA: Well we wouldn't have gotten the Excellence in Education Award had we not done something right.

BOB: No, we did. No, I think we've --- when I look at schools I feel --- I was on school board for fifteen years, I guess. One term up there, and two out at the high school,

fourteen years or something. And I think we made progress in all those years. And I think we've made progress since. I think we have done a lot of turnabout in attitude and things out there. But we've got to keep working on it.

BARBARA: You can't just rest on your laurels, or it's going to go down.

BOB: No. And I think they made a positive move when they became one district out there. But they got to capitalize on the advantages of having done that. And if they don't capitalize on it, then we haven't gained a thing. And that's, you know, and I think they're working on it.

BARBARA: Probably.

BOB: Yeah, I'm confident. I feel very positive about what is going to happen.

BARBARA: Well most of the kids that have gone out of here, and gone on to higher education have done real well. So it speaks for itself.

BOB: We've got a pretty good track record, really, when you look at the schools, and look at where people have gone. But that's the whole thing, they've gone. They haven't stayed, or they haven't come back.

BARBARA: There is not all that much for them to do if they came back.

BOB: Well that's what I mean. That's why we need to, because everybody isn't going to college either.

BARBARA: That's right.

BOB: And for those that went to college, they don't have to come back. It would be nice if there was something for them to come back to if they'd like to. But for those that didn't go, there is nothing left for them, you know, we've got to get something, or we're just going down on that.

Our city size is down to; well I think we've lost two thousand people out of the

county totally from the top, to where we are now. Which is, I think we're as low or lower than we were in 1960.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, because I can remember in, when I graduated from high school it was in the '50's, and I think we had 4200 people here then.

BOB: Uh huh.

DOROTHEA: And now we're down to what is it, 2020?

BOB: Where, in Burns?

DOROTHEA: In Burns.

BOB: We're down to about 2600 or 2700.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

BOB: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: And 1400 something I think in Hines.

BOB: But I was thinking county wide, I think we're down to a thousand people more or less than what we had when we were up to 7000, or there or a little better. And I think Hines is down, and Burns is down. I know Burns is down. We're down to I think it is 2600 or 2700 people is what we ---

See we get this figure from the state on gas taxes, and it's budget time. And that hurts when you, you still got the same streets, you still got the same everything, and you've got ---

BARBARA: But your revenue is down.

BOB: The taxes on gas went up like that, and the money we get, it stays about even or goes down. Something like cattle prices.

DOROTHEA: Yeah.

BOB: But --- no we're planning on making a home here for a while. I don't really know,

we're one of those people that are fortunate I guess. We don't have to stay here if we don't want to. And, but we say we don't know any place really where we --- we thought about it, we talked and talked. And we just put a new roof on our house, which is good for another thirty-five years. So ---

BARBARA: Well you mentioned, well you say now you're working on the city council, and you spent your time on the school board. What are some of the other things that you have been involved with, your church or other civic activities?

BOB: Well I've been pretty involved, and I've had a very supportive family on that. I have thought about that a lot. If I was in so many things that your family gets neglected, but I don't think so. I think it's something --- we did a lot of things together. And, but I've, and a lot of the things I worked on were directly involved, at least some of the kids. Like I coached little league, and worked on the little league baseball and football. And I've worked on boy scouts; I was scoutmaster a couple years. And I was a Boy Scout awards, I forget what they called me now. I was one that, we were an awards councilor.

BARBARA: I see.

BOB: Where the kids that got their achievements ---

BARBARA: Their badges.

BOB: --- badge councilor. And I can remember it, because I remember working with some of the kids. I was that for a number of years, where a kid wants to go on to be a life scout, or an eagle scout or something, they've got to pass this requirement, somebody's got to help them with it. Worked on that.

I have been very involved in my church, and I enjoy that. I think that reaches lots of people. And I think it also reached my family. So, we did a lot of things there, and will continue to. Then the Knight's of Columbus is a men's organization in the church. I've

been involved in that all the time, as well as other activities in church.

I don't know, I work, I never, I don't belong; I'm not a joiner. I don't belong. I belong to my church and things like that, but I don't belong to any of the civic clubs in town. I intermittently pay my dues to the Chamber of Commerce, but right now I haven't paid those. And I'm not a member of the Chamber of Commerce. I sometimes, I don't know if I should be or shouldn't. I know it's --- but I don't want to get involved where I'm, if I have a responsibility I'm going to do it. And I don't want to, and the last thing I need is go to lunch every day of the week to meet the requirement of going to a club, and sit there and spend my time. If there is a good speaker, or if I can help, I'll help with something.

I belong to the Elks. I used to get quite involved in it, but I made the same, decided there the same way that I didn't want that. I think it's a good organization, and I commend the people that work that hard in it. But I didn't want to get myself totally beholden to where that was directing what I was going to do with my life. And so I would much sooner work on what I want to work at, and any variety of things rather than take the responsibility to being stuck with doing something all the time. (Laughter) That's an easy way to hedge I guess.

BARBARA: Well you talk about doing things with your children. I think we have forgotten to mention how many children you have maybe, and their names, we can get that on tape too.

BOB: By all means, that's the most important part.

BARBARA: Right.

BOB: Well our oldest boy Dave is about thirty-five years old I think, thirty-six, thirty-five. And they have two little boys, Seth and Nathan. He is married to Claudia Crim who was from here. And they live now in, I guess I'd say Corvallis. Dave is still in Seaside, and she

is in Corvallis. And that's just the way jobs, they both changed jobs at the same time, and they got, or both had applied, they decided they wanted to leave Gearhart, Seaside area. And Claudia applied for a job teaching in some areas that they wanted to move in, and she got Corvallis, which was their choice. And about two days after she got that job, Dave got offered a job with PP&L, and that he really wanted and had been trying to get on with. And he, so they decided to take it because PP&L told them they would work a transfer for him. But right now they're, they did get their house sold in Gearhart finally.

BARBARA: So they're commuting.

BOB: And they're commuting kind of. But it's, that's temporary. And Steve lives in Portland. And he's got a good job, and he is doing very well with himself. He's a construction superintendent now.

BARBARA: Good.

BOB: And, on house building, and apartment building, and that kind of stuff. And he has a little girl, Stephanie, that's about nine. She lives with her mother in Medford. But we get to see her and share her, and so on.

Tom is married to Kelly Boatman. And Boatman's now live in Denver. They used to live here. And Tom works in St. Louis, Missouri, and so does she. They live in St. Charles, which is a suburb of St. Louis. Tom works for; well he is in the main office of the buying part of Edison Company, which is primarily a holding company that has a group of stores, mostly in the clothing area. And he has moved up to that. Kelly works; she is a legal secretary in St. Louis. They work right across the street from each other.

BARBARA: That's great.

BOB: And there is a skywalk goes between them. And they got a parking garage right there, and they drive into the parking garage and they walk to the elevator and that's

where the skywalk is. Kelly goes across it and gets the elevator to go up to her floor, and Tom gets in his, and so they're in that ---

BARBARA: That's super.

DOROTHEA: That's nice.

BOB: That's really super, yeah. And Mike lives in Portland. And he's the fourth boy, and he is single. And he is managing a, I don't know what you'd call it, food and drink establishment. It's a restaurant, bar type thing. And he's managing it. He likes it. And Mark is in Bloomington, Indiana. And his girlfriend is back there going to school. And when he finished school he decided to go back there and see if he could find a job. She is a girl from Woodburn and, that he was in school with. She is doing graduate work, and he is back there now working with the rehabilitation program for the --- well it's kind of a pseudo-state and private outfit where they work with both handicapped people to make them self-sustaining as well as with work injured, industrial injury, you know, or work injury, putting them back. And he, they don't know what they are going to do. He is going to stay until she finishes, and then they're going to look for jobs, and hopefully they will settle down then.

And that brings us to Dan. And Dan is married to Michelle Bacon from Burns, at the time. And they live in Milwaukie, Oregon. Dan is, works with Les Schwab. And Michelle works with the Chrysler dealership there in Milwaukie. And they have one son, Jake.

And John is our youngest, and he is married to Cathy. Clever is her last name, Cathy Clever. And they live in Eugene. John is manager of ITT financial services in Eugene. And they like Eugene, believe it or not.

BARBARA: Good.

BOB: Really like it. She is from Lebanon. And they went to school together. And they are doing fine. So out of this we've got.

BARBARA: They have a new baby.

BOB: They have a new baby boy, Matthew. He's about five months old now. And so we have, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven grandchildren. And only one girl.

DOROTHEA: That's what I was going to say, I've got down here four, and I missed a couple of them.

BOB: Dave's got two, Steve's got one, Tom's got two, I guess I didn't point out.

DOROTHEA: Oh, you didn't say anything about Tom.

BOB: We've got Sam and John.

BARBARA: Sam and John.

BOB: Yeah. And then that's five, yeah, Dan's got one, and John's got one. So --- and they're all, I feel good about all of them. All our kids seemed to have the struggles of lots of kids, but they all seemed to do all right.

BARBARA: Everybody is hanging in there.

BOB: Five of them have graduated from college, and have toughed themselves by it. At least --- and Steve never, Steve went to school and played football for four years in college. But he didn't graduate. Just as well, I guess. Because he has done, other than his, you know, personal problems, he's done very well in his work. He's a carpenter. Now he's a, they just promoted him to construction superintendent. And I think he'll do all right.

And Tom never, Tom went to school about two years. I guess there was only four of them finished school. Tom went to college about two years, and then went to work. And he's worked, and found his nitch and is doing fine.

And Dan went about two years, and he learned how to play golf, and knows all about everything good up there, and done well. He's very satisfied, and I'm sure he'll do fine. He's got a Schwab is a good outfit to work for. But ---

DOROTHEA: Well can you think of any little cute stories that you'd like to add that you can remember about the kids growing up, or some of your work, or ---

BOB: Well, I could talk about highlights of my kids, you know, forever. But I think that means more to me than anyone else. But they all had their days, and they all were involved in, you know, in lots of things.

I don't know, one of the highlights of Burns is when we won the state basketball tournament, and Tom was one of the main stays on that team. And that makes me, as a parent, feel good. But I just feel good that Tom was able to, you know, that we had the coaching, we had the attitude, we had everything that my kids were able to take advantage of.

The other kids, they've all had an opportunity to excel at the level they were, wanted to, or were capable of, in all of the athletic events and other things that went on. And I think that's all the community can provide for you. And I think you'd have to say that about your kids, the same way.

BARBARA: I think so.

BOB: It's a, you know, it's not a matter of how good our kids are, the important thing is that they have an opportunity to develop to be as good as they were. And, or as good as, I won't say as good as they can get necessarily. But that's what life is really all about is ---

I read a, a guy I worked for years and years ago, he had a, thing he had on his desk. And he, just a little thing. And it's always, it's always been important to me, and that basically he had success is when preparation meets opportunity. And that's really what it

amounts to, you know. If you aren't prepared to do a job, when the opportunity comes you can't do it. In order to achieve success you have to be ready for it, and willing. And most of it is up to us.

This whole idea of going through college and having the world by the tail with a downhill pull, if you approach it with that attitude, well you haven't, you aren't going to get very far. Because a college degree don't mean a damn thing. All it means is that it gives you another option in life that you can apply yourself at.

DOROTHEA: Right.

BOB: And that's just like learning to be a truck driver, or a welder, or anything else. That gives you some options to do one thing or another. And to me no matter what these are it's, the important thing is that we provide an opportunity for our children and ourselves to basically find something that we want to work in. And I think that's --- it's not how much money you make, because

BARBARA: You have to be happy in what you're doing.

BOB: Yeah, I know quite a few people that got lots of money, and they haven't had anything go right for them other than make money. And I don't think that's the mark of success, you know.

No, I really feel that, you know, there is nothing wrong with living in Burns and Harney County. I think it is a great place to live and raise a family. I think our, well to me it's, it was a good move to come here.

And I really would, I wouldn't be a bit afraid of anybody that we recruited out there, that you get people that are going to come out here and work and do very well. Because they fall into an environment that they are comfortable with, or can make themselves

comfortable with. If you get in, if you hire somebody out there, or any place else, and they basically decide that god I wished I was in Chicago or I want to be in Portland, well they might as well pack up and leave. And that's what happens to a lot of us when we hire, you know, we hire teachers out there at school. And they're good teachers. They've got the potential to be terrific. And some of them develop very, and become potentially, not potentially they become excellent teachers because they learned that this is where they want to be, and they like the environment. And they adjust themselves to it. Others hate it, and others they never do find happiness. They might be reasonably successful, but they are always looking for something else.

DOROTHEA: Well with that note, I don't want to cut you short, but we've taken up a lot of your time. I think we'd like to get a video of you, if you would approve. And we'll ask you some short questions on it. And it will take a little while too. So why don't we sign off now, it's getting a little after four. And we thank you for your time. And you've given us a lot of information, and a very interesting afternoon.

BOB: Well thank you, I've enjoyed it.

(END OF TAPE)

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